

The Missing Chapter *in the* Life of Abraham Lincoln

A number of articles, episodes, photographs, pen and
ink sketches concerning the life of Abraham Lincoln
in Spencer County, Indiana, between
1816-1830 and 1844

By
BESS V. EHRMANN

Pen and Ink Sketches
By
MARY LEE GABBERT

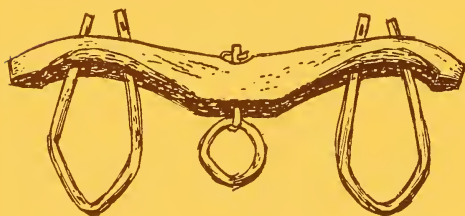
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LINCOLN
Room

*One Thousand Copies
Of This Book Were Printed
Of Which This Is*

Number484.....

35054 HSEAEY

This book is dedicated to my husband, Dr. Calder DeBruler Ehrmann, a descendant of a southern Indiana pioneer family, and to my beloved children, Edwin, Dorothy and Carlos, who were born and grew up in the same county where Abraham Lincoln spent the formative years of his life.



FOREWORD BY THE AUTHOR

The writing of these pages, concerning Lincoln's life in Indiana, has been done to preserve in book form some of the incidents that occurred in his life in Spencer County, Indiana, from 1816-1830 and in 1844; and also to make available for future historians some facts not generally known concerning research work on his life here.

In 1920 Mr. John E. Iglehart of Evansville, Indiana, founded the Southwestern Indiana Historical Society and shortly after coined the phrase, "The Lincoln Inquiry." He realized there was a missing chapter in Lincoln's life, the fourteen formative years spent in Indiana, which had never been written by historians and which could never be written by outsiders who would perhaps spend a few days in investigation in Spencer County; but it *should* be written, and by the children and grandchildren of those people who knew Lincoln in his boyhood days.

Mr. Iglehart said that it was the people who live near the scenes of Lincoln's early life who are best able to interpret its environment. They are intimately acquainted with the descendants of his boyhood friends, have heard the stories of his life as related by their elders, therefore, ought to be in a position to write more understandingly of those early days.

Having been born in Spencer County of the third generation on my grandfather's side and the fourth on my grandmother's and having lived here practically all my life, I have known the children and grandchildren of Lincoln's neighbors.

My grandmother's father was John Bayliss, who came to Spencer County soon after Rockport became the county

seat. My grandmother, Evaline Bayliss, was married in Rockport on August the 21st 1829 to Thomas Pindal Britton, and their marriage record is the 5th on page 30 in the old marriage record book of that pioneer time, and kept in the present Spencer County Court House. Thomas Pindal Britton, my grandfather, came from Virginia to Rockport, Spencer County, in 1827. My mother was Rachel Britton.

To live in a community one's entire life and to have heard of the early people from those who have lived there before you cause you to know such a community and its many families well. You know their social and economic status and those of their ancestors far better than an outsider.

With this knowledge of Lincoln's friends and associates in Spencer County, I record here only those incidents connected with his years lived in Indiana and information brought to light by "The Lincoln Inquiry."

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I wish to acknowledge here the help received from many sources in compiling this material.

First to the memory of the late John E. Iglehart of Evansville, Indiana, descendant of southern Indiana pioneers, who inspired all members of the society which he founded, to give such facts to the world as were known to them concerning Lincoln's background in Indiana.

To Mr. William Fortune of Indianapolis, Indiana, who was born and reared a few miles west of the Lincoln home in southern Indiana. Mr. Fortune has allowed me to use his valuable historic monograph in this book. His knowledge of southern Indiana history and interest in its people have been outstanding.

To Miss Anna O'Flynn and Rev. Edward J. Murr, both investigators of Lincoln's life in Indiana, whose valuable articles appear in this book.

To "Lincoln Lore," edited by Dr. Louis A. Warren and published by the Lincoln National Life Insurance Foundation of Fort Wayne, Indiana, for certain dates and facts.

To the "Indiana Magazine of History" for articles by the writer of this book, published by them, and used again in part in this book.

To Dr. J. Christian Bay of Chicago, Ill., admirer of Abraham Lincoln. Dr. Bay's knowledge of books and book making is well known and his interest, suggestions and advice have been of great assistance.

To the Indianapolis *Star* and Evansville *Courier* for use of articles by the author, published first by them.

To Mrs. James Gabbert, Spencer County pioneer descendant, who did the photographic copies for the book,

and to her daughter, Mary Lee Gabbert, artist, who did the pen and ink sketches.

To Miss Lillian Hoch and Mrs. Bertha McCullough for stenographic help and to Miss Betty Aliene McCullough.

To those who so kindly loaned me the pictures of their ancestors, and for use of the pioneer biographies and addresses written by members of the Southwestern Indiana Historical Society and kept in our files.

To Edna Brown Sanders, President of the Southwestern Indiana Historical Society, and the members of the Executive Board who have so graciously given their approval to my work.

To Deirdré Duff Johnston, Mt. Vernon, Indiana, Emily Orr Clifford and the late Albion Fellows Bacon, of Evansville, Indiana, co-workers in the Lincoln Inquiry, and whose interest has been an inspiration to me.

Without the above help, this book could never have been written.

THE AUTHOR

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Frontiers have faded westward with the sun;
Beneath a century's dust, the pioneers
Sleep quietly; while Lincoln's boyhood years
Forgotten, fall into oblivion.

Ours be the task to prove his heritage!
To sift the sands of Legend for the gold
Of Truth; to recreate the culture old
Of Indiana, here on Nature's stage.

Who knows what mark was left by sorrow's pain,
When Lincoln knelt beside his mother's grave?
Or when his youthful eyes first saw a slave,
What indignation fired his noble brain!

The child foretells the man. Come, banish toil,
And see what visions called Abe from the soil.

PART I

SPENCER COUNTY HISTORY

Abraham Lincoln was born on the 12th day of February, 1809, on Nolin Creek, in Kentucky. He was the son of Thomas and Nancy Hanks Lincoln who were married in Kentucky June 12, 1806.

Sarah Lincoln, Abraham's sister, was two years older than Abe, having been born February 10, 1807. After Abraham, came one other child, a son; and this son was named Thomas, after his father, but only lived a few days.

When seven years of age, Abraham moved with his parents and sister into what is now Spencer County, Indiana, where he lived fourteen years.

To understand Lincoln's background during his formative years, it is necessary to know something of the county and state in which he grew to manhood.

Let us then turn back the pages of history and recount again the story of other days, here in this heart of the American nation, our Indiana.

Indiana was once a part of that vast area known as "The Territory Northwest of the Ohio" which was organized July 13, 1787. This territory embraced the present states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and a part of Minnesota east of the Mississippi River.

It was here on July 4, 1800, that the division of this territory was created by Congress that was named Indiana, an appellation coined from the Indians who were its inhabitants and it is a memorial to the race that preceded us. Just as the Northwest Territory was divided into five states, so Indiana Territory was reduced by successive divisions to

the final limits of the commonwealth as it stands today, and a similar process of elimination was followed in practically all the earliest counties of Indiana.

From the southern end of Knox County, the first county organized in Indiana Territory, came in 1813 Warrick and Gibson Counties. In 1814 Posey and Perry were created from Warrick which embraced the present Posey, Vanderburg, Spencer, Perry and part of Crawford Counties. Perry County first included the southern portion of Dubois and Crawford and about half of Spencer.

In the year 1816 Indiana became a state, and on January 10, 1818, Spencer County was formed from parts of Warrick and Perry Counties and was named for Captain Spears Spencer, who was killed at the battle of Tippecanoe.

The selection of the county seat came next and on March 11, 1818, Rockport was chosen. This place had been first known as Hanging Rock, a name given it by the Indians. Walter Taylor and Daniel Grass were the first land owners in Spencer County. Taylor entered his land May 6, 1807, and Grass May 9, 1807. Grass's land was on the present site of Rockport. He changed the name from Hanging Rock to Mt. Duval, in honor of Colonel William Duval, a Kentucky friend, but this name was put aside later by the commissioners who called the growing town Rockport, and so it remains today.

The county was divided into nine townships, Carter, Jackson, Clay, Hammond, Grass, Ohio, Luce, Harrison and Huff.

Historical records tell us that Ezekiel Ray and Uriah Lamar established the second settlement in 1808, in what is now Spencer County, on the present site of Grandview, and that Ezekiel Ray was the first permanent settler, coming with his family between 1804 and 1807.

There were many who came between 1807 and 1818 and who are too numerous to mention here, but all helped to

make Spencer County what it was in Lincoln's day, as well as in our own time.

The principal towns in the county now are: Rockport, Dale, Chrisney, Grandview, St. Meinrad, Gentryville, Lamar, Lincoln City, Evanston, Fulda, Huffman, Richland, Newtonville, Hatfield, Santa Claus, Mariah Hill, Clay City and Eureka.

The entire county abounds in interesting Lincoln traditions and those of the pioneer settlers who helped build our great Indiana. The lives of these settlers and boyhood friends of Lincoln give us the environment of his youth, and the influences that undoubtedly had an effect on his life and character.

Throughout his life he remembered those years lived in Spencer County, and mentioned them to his friends.

In an address by Dr. Stewart W. McClelland, President of Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, Tennessee, which was printed in the "Lincoln Herald" the University Quarterly of February 1938, is a photographic copy of an original Lincoln letter. The original is in the Lincoln Research Library of Lincoln Memorial University. In this letter Lincoln mentions the town of Rockport, in Spencer County, the county where he "was brought up."

With an acknowledgment to the Lincoln Memorial University, to Dr. McClelland and the Historical Research Library of the University, the letter is quoted here:

Springfield, Ill., July 20, 1860.

HON. CASSIUS M. CLAY,

My dear Sir:

I see by the papers, and also learn from Mr. Nicolay, who saw you at Terre-Haute, that you are filling a list of speaking appointments in Indiana. I sincerely thank you for this; and I shall be still further obliged if you

will at the close of the tour, drop me a line, giving your impression of our prospects in that state.

Still more will you oblige us if you will allow us to make a list of appointments in our State, commencing, say, at Marshall, in Clark County, and thence South and West, along our Wabash and Ohio river border.

In passing, let me say that at Rockport you will be in the county within which I was brought up from my eighth year — having left Kentucky at that point of my life.

Yours very truly,

A. LINCOLN.

Plate 1



Courtesy Ora Brown, Dale

Photograph of the last home of the Lincolns in Spencer County

FORMATIVE YEARS

Let us briefly review the outstanding events in Lincoln's life from 1816 to 1830. These years number one-quarter of his entire life, so they must be important years in his development.

When the Lincoln family of four arrived in Indiana in 1816, Thomas Lincoln was forty years of age; his wife, Nancy, thirty-two; Sarah, the daughter, nine; and Abraham, seven years old. They settled in what is now Spencer County, Indiana, on the southwest quarter of section thirty-two, township four, south of range five west.

Two horses brought them and all their possessions from Kentucky to the Indiana shore. A cow and a dog were included in the party, and bundles and baskets were carried by Nancy and the children. Thomas led the horses and carried a gun. Into the Indiana wilderness they slowly picked their way until they reached their destination on the banks of Pigeon Creek sixteen miles from the Ohio River. Here the first rude, three faced cabin was built, and the Indiana life of Lincoln began.

In 1817 Thomas and Betsey Sparrow, aunt and uncle of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, and Dennis Hanks, son of another Nancy Hanks, aunt of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, joined the Lincolns. By this time Thomas Lincoln had built a second, four sided cabin for his family, so he allowed Thomas and Betsey to occupy the first cabin, while Dennis lived with the Lincolns.

On October 5, 1818, the mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, died and was buried on a knoll not far from the cabin home.

On December 2, 1819, Thomas Lincoln, who had gone

to Kentucky on a visit, married Sarah Bush Johnston, a widow, aged thirty-one years, with three children. Together with the three children, Elizabeth, aged twelve years, Matilda, aged eight, and John D. Johnston, aged four, another trip was made to the Indiana wilderness. This time a covered wagon owned by Ralph Krume, cousin of the bride, was used to convey the family and several pieces of furniture, bedding and household articles, from Kentucky to Indiana.

The new Mrs. Lincoln became a good mother to Sarah and Abe and the two sets of children lived in perfect accord.

In 1820 Abraham Lincoln attended his first school in Spencer County, a school taught by Andrew Crawford, the instructor who taught manners as well as the three R's. In 1822 he attended school with James Sweeney in charge, and in 1824 his last Indiana school was taught by Azel Dorsey.

Lincoln was employed in 1825 by a man named Taylor who owned and operated a ferry at Anderson Creek. This gave the young boy a chance to see and meet the many people who were traveling through this pioneer country.

Both Lincoln and his sister, Sarah, were employed at various times by Mr. and Mrs. Josiah Crawford who lived near the Lincoln home.

On August 2, 1826, Sarah Lincoln was married to Aaron Grigsby, and just a year and a half later, January 20, 1828, she died and was buried in the Pigeon Creek Baptist Church Cemetery. Thomas Lincoln and his son, Abe, had helped build this log church in 1819, and in 1823 Thomas and his second wife had become members, and Abe was janitor for a short period.

James Gentry, a rich landowner, lived near the Lincoln home and frequently employed the tall, young Abe to assist him on his farm. Gentry's children were friends and school-mates of Lincoln. One of Gentry's sons, Allen, had gone in

1826 to live on a farm he had bought on the Ohio River, near the county seat of Rockport, and was married there on March 20, 1828, to Ann Roby, a playmate and former schoolmate of both Lincoln and Gentry. Many historians have mentioned the friendship of Ann Roby and Lincoln but have erroneously called her Kate Roby. There was no Kate Roby in the family.

We see two important events in Lincoln's life in 1828: the death of his sister, Sarah, and the marriage of his two friends and former childhood playmates, Ann Roby and Allen Gentry.

Another great event was to occur in this same year, and that was a flatboat trip to New Orleans with Allen Gentry in December, 1828. The date of this trip is sometimes given by historians as April, 1828. Many flatboat men along the Ohio did make their trips in April, but the Gentry family was always known to go in the late fall or early winter. There were other men who made their trips in the winter, Mr. Louis Gentry told me. Louis Gentry was the grandson of Allen Gentry and also a flatboat man, as was his father, Absolem Gentry, before him, and he related the facts of this trip to me.

I have known intimately many of the grandchildren and great grandchildren of both James Gentry and Allen Gentry. All members of both families know that their ancestors, three generations of them, made their flatboat trips to New Orleans in the fall or winter, after their hogs were butchered and the summer crops gathered and stored ready for marketing in New Orleans. Ice did not come in the rivers until late in the winter, and as Mr. Louis Gentry told me, "You must remember we were traveling south away from the cold."

We have in the archives of our Spencer County Historical Society a letter written January 22, 1821, by C. William Morgan to his brother, John Morgan, first postmaster of

Rockport. In this letter William Morgan mentions starting his flatboats out one month before the letter was written which would have been in December. This corroborated Mr. Gentry's statement about winter flatboat trips to the south land.

Rockport was the main shipping point on the Ohio River for Spencer County, and Allen Gentry lived near the boat landing.

Absolem Roby, his wife, Polly, and their two daughters, Ann and Elizabeth, had come to Rockport from their home near the Gentrys, to keep house for Allen soon after his cabin home had been finished in Rockport. Ann, Elizabeth and Allen had attended the same pioneer school and played together when children, as had Abe Lincoln. Both Lincoln and Allen had been ardent admirers of Ann from their earliest childhood, but now Ann had given her heart to Allen, although she had a great friendship for the big awkward Abe. Early in the year of 1828 they had been married, vowing "to take each other for better or for worse" as long as life should last.

The coming of their first child, James Gentry, born December 18, 1828, had delayed the southern trip as Allen had refused to go until he knew all was well at home. Many years later when Lincoln became famous, the Gentrys were always to remember the date of this particular flatboat trip from the birthdate of the eldest son.

Many weeks were spent on the trip south and one night when tied up for the night below Baton Rouge, a lawless band of negroes tried to take possession of the boat. They almost killed Allen and Abe. Abe's great arms, made strong by swinging an ax, were used to good advantage and the negroes were routed, but Abe ever after carried a deep scar above his right ear received in this fight.

At last the journey was ended, and the wonders of New Orleans claimed the attention of these two pioneer back-

woodsmen. One day as they were walking along the street a crowd attracted their attention, and they drew near to see what was going on. A man was making a speech and offering for sale a young negro woman standing on a huge block used for the slave market. The two men were horrified, and as the girl, with tears streaming down her face, was given to the highest bidder, young Abe, in a frenzy of anger, turned to his friend and said, "If I ever get a chance to hit that thing, I'll hit it hard."

Prophetic words were these, spoken by a young man, little dreaming that the time would come when he would be the emancipator of this slave race. Always the scene of this slave market was to remain in Lincoln's mind, and many years later, January 19, 1860, he wrote a letter to his friend, Alexander H. Stephens of Springfield, Illinois, in which was this statement: "When a boy, I went to New Orleans on a flatboat, and there I saw slavery and slave markets as I had never seen them in Kentucky, and I heard worse of the Red River plantations." *

Today the memory of Abraham Lincoln is revered in every country in the world, and every place connected with his life has become a sacred shrine. Thousands annually visit the old Ohio River boat landing in Rockport, Indiana, the place where he left on that first memorable trip, and standing at the water's edge, they see again the boy who so courageously set out from this spot on his first great adventure.

In 1829 Lincoln served as a clerk in the store of Colonel William Jones at Jonesboro, a settlement near the Lincoln home. Here he met and listened to discussions of the leading men of the community; here he read the newspapers that Jones received, and during this year he continued his trips to Rockport and Boonville where he had met the lead-

* Dr. Louis A. Warren of Fort Wayne has a copy of this letter, taken from the original.

ing men of both villages. In Rockport he had borrowed books from the noted lawyer, John Pitcher, and listened to the speeches of Judge John Graham.

Lincoln had met many people throughout the county and beyond its limits, as he was sent to the Hammond Tannery near the present site of Grandview; to the Huffman Mill near Troy, and to Princeton, in Gibson County, to have wool corded for his father.

At New Harmony a great experiment was under way, and this must have interested the boy Lincoln even if he never went to the settlement.

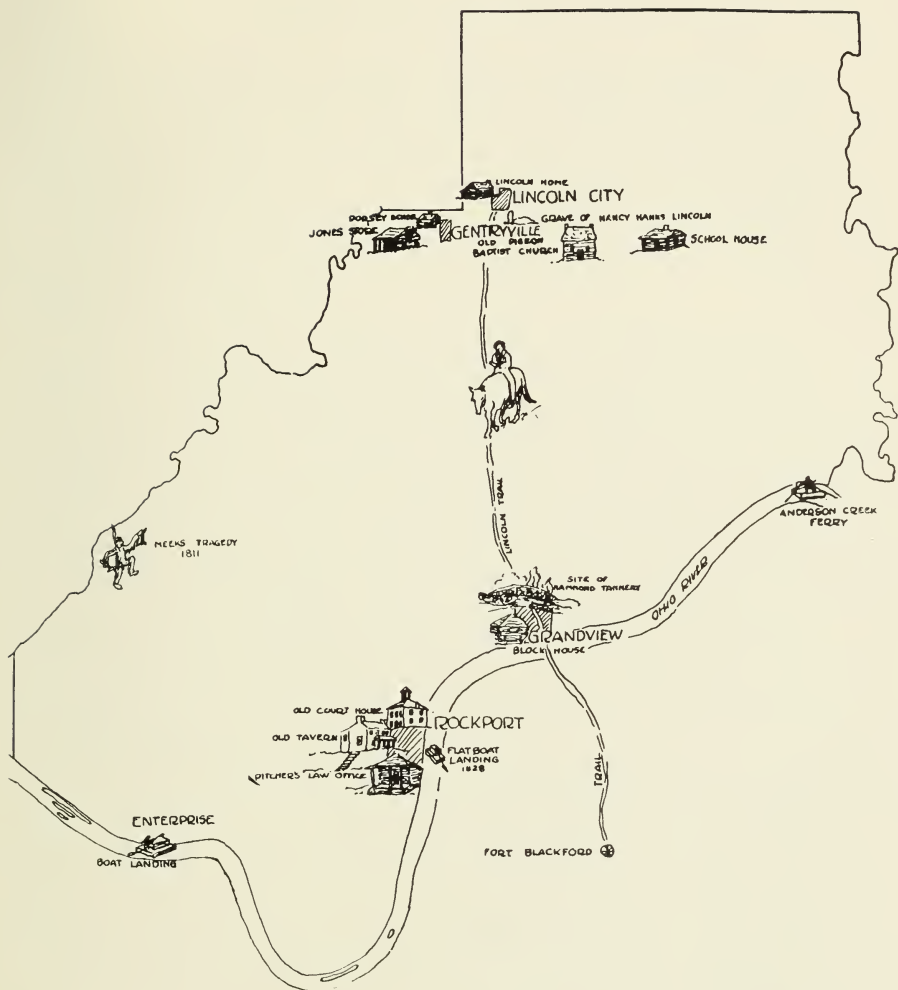
Another place near Evansville, forty miles from Lincoln's home, was the subject of much conversation. It was the British Settlement made in 1817 and called Saundersville. These British settlers were men of capital, education and culture.

On March 1, 1830, the Lincolns left Indiana for Illinois. In the party were members of the Lincoln, Hanks and Hall families, numbering thirteen. They were: Thomas Lincoln, aged fifty-four; Sarah Johnston Lincoln, aged forty-two; Abraham Lincoln, aged twenty-one; John D. Johnston, aged fifteen; Dennis F. Hanks, aged thirty-one; Elizabeth Johnston Hanks, wife of Dennis Hanks, aged twenty-three; John Hanks, aged eight; Sarah Hanks, aged seven; Nancy Hanks, aged five; Harriet Hanks, aged four; Squire Hall and his wife, Matilda Johnston Hall, aged nineteen, and their child, John Hall, aged two. Quite a caravan to set out for a new home.

The Lincolns were entertained in the home of James Gentry the night before they left on their long journey, and on that morning the Gentrys went a piece of the way with the Lincolns before bidding them goodbye.

So ended the Indiana years of the Lincoln family, one member of which was to travel to great heights in the nation's history.

Plate 2





ENVIRONMENT

If we claim here in southern Indiana that Lincoln's associates and environment influenced his intellectual development and his entire life afterwards, then we must tell of the influences that had to do with his acquisition of knowledge.

His forceful reasoning in later life, when responsibilities were heavy, shows the principles which became a part of his character in early life.

Something of the culture of southern Indiana may be learned by studying the lives of great men produced in this part of the state; John Hay, Walter Q. Gresham; Generals Harrison, Hovey, Wallace, Burnside, Rosecrans; also Joseph, James and Henry Lane. These are a few known to all readers of history, men of unique and vivid personalities, who loomed larger than their simple pioneer setting.

All men of that early day in Indiana had a complex background of stern justice, Puritan piety, superstition, adventure and many dangers. It made them lusty and full-blooded, with a store of knowledge gathered in the homely details of everyday life.

With the eager spirit of childhood, Lincoln was deeply impressed by the period in which he lived and the people who were his friends. The books he read were of the best. John Hanks told of how Lincoln always kept the Bible and Aesop's Fables in reach, and read them over and over. These two books furnished him the parables and figures of speech which he was to use with great effect in later life, as he had a most retentive memory and a great power of concentration. David Turnham, who lived near the Lincoln farm, lent Abe the first law book he ever read, "The Statutes of Indiana"; and John Pitcher of Rockport lent other law books that fascinated the growing boy.

The newspapers of that day contained news from all over the world, and it is known that he read the newspapers which were taken by Colonel William Jones in whose store he clerked. A general fund of information was contained in the Louisville, Kentucky, papers that reached the store regularly, and in other newspapers of the day.

The first newspaper published within the limits of Indiana was published in Vincennes in 1804, by Elihu Stout, and called the *Indiana Gazette*. A remarkable paper written by Alice Cauthorn Potter of Princeton, Indiana, is in our files, which tells of these early newspapers and from them much Indiana life has been gleaned. The first newspaper published in Spencer County was in July, 1837, and was called *The Gazette*.

The possibly preserved files of these earliest papers were destroyed by fire, but I have read several volumes of *The Planter*, published in Rockport in 1848, by Thomas Langdon, who lived here when the Lincolns did. These early newspapers tell much of the social, literary and business affairs of the county, and although published eighteen years after the Lincolns left Indiana, they show the type of people (for they were the same) who lived here during all those formative years in Abe's life. In these papers are mentioned banquets, dinner parties, musical affairs, debates on the slavery question and other subjects, political speeches, church services and public gatherings.

There was a philosophical society that studied astronomy, literature, phrenology, magnetism, mesmerism, etc., and all young men were urged to join and improve their minds; there were temperance lectures, and Lincoln was known to have written a paper on temperance which Judge Pitcher commended highly.

These were some of the things the pioneers were thinking and doing a few years after Lincoln had moved to

Illinois, and it seems reasonable that the same things were taking place just a few years earlier.

Patriotism was in the air at this time, and the first big July 4th celebration held in Indiana was at Indianapolis, Indiana, on July 4th, 1822. This celebration must have been the topic of conversation wherever men gathered to discuss the news of the day, and we may imagine the thirteen year old Lincoln listening to all that was said about this celebration.

The Honorable Philip Lutz, in an address made in Rockport on July 4th, 1936, when he was Attorney General of Indiana, told of this patriotic celebration of 1822 and of other celebrations in 1823 and 1826 in Indiana. He told of the orators of note who were on these programs and how their speeches glorified patriotism and urged loyalty and devotion to the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. Lincoln no doubt read and discussed many such speeches published in the newspapers to which he had access at the Jones store. Dennis Hanks, in after years, told about Lincoln often getting groups of boys together in the woods and repeating speeches he had heard or read.

These were some of the influences for character building which were prevalent in Indiana when Lincoln was growing up, influences which undoubtedly developed in him patriotism, love of country, hatred of slavery and intemperance, reverence for womanhood and a desire to make something of his life.

In the homes of some of Lincoln's neighbors were books, pictures, heirlooms of furniture, silver and linen which were reminders of other days and the graces of daily living of their ancestors. Lincoln undoubtedly observed all these things, especially in the homes of the Gentrys, Crawfords and Jones families, where he was employed at various times. Youth is ever of an inquiring mind, I believe, when new or

unusual things are concerned, and it has been said of Lincoln that he was always interested in what he saw or heard. He said once that he would lie awake at night, when a boy, trying to solve the meaning of some chance remark or unusual word he had heard, and of which he did not know the meaning. So we may feel sure that the affairs of the county were quite well known to the growing boy.

I wish to relate here two incidents of pioneer occurrence which showed that unusual things were discussed and investigated by the pioneer citizens of our county.

Mr. Taylor Basye was a pioneer "storekeeper" near the present town of Grandview and where the Lincolns no doubt traded. In Goodspeed's history of Warrick, Perry and Spencer Counties is an account of an election held at the house of Jonathon Greathouse in Carter Township August, 1819. There were thirty-one men who cast their ballots and Taylor Basye is the first name mentioned in the list and Thomas Lincoln the twenty-fifth, so we see these men as neighbors and perhaps friends as early as 1819. Some years after the Lincolns moved to Illinois, in 1858, Taylor Basye's son, John Basye, moved to Rockport and bought a drug store from a Dr. Morgan. On a trip Mr. Basye made to Louisville in 1862 to buy goods, he saw and bought for his store an oil lamp, the first ever brought to Spencer County. This lamp was such a luxury, and coal oil so expensive, that Dr. Morgan warned Mr. Basye that he would soon be bankrupt if he was to indulge in such wasteful expenditures of money. However, Mr. Basye believed in advertising, and so he let it be known that on each Saturday night, in his store, a coal oil lamp would be lighted and burned throughout the evening, where all customers could see.

It did bring him trade; they came for miles to see this new marvel, and years later, a Mr. Romine of Gentryville, a member of the Romine family who had been neighbors and

Plate 3



Sketch of Old Pigeon Baptist Church where the Lincolns
worshipped in Spencer County, Indiana

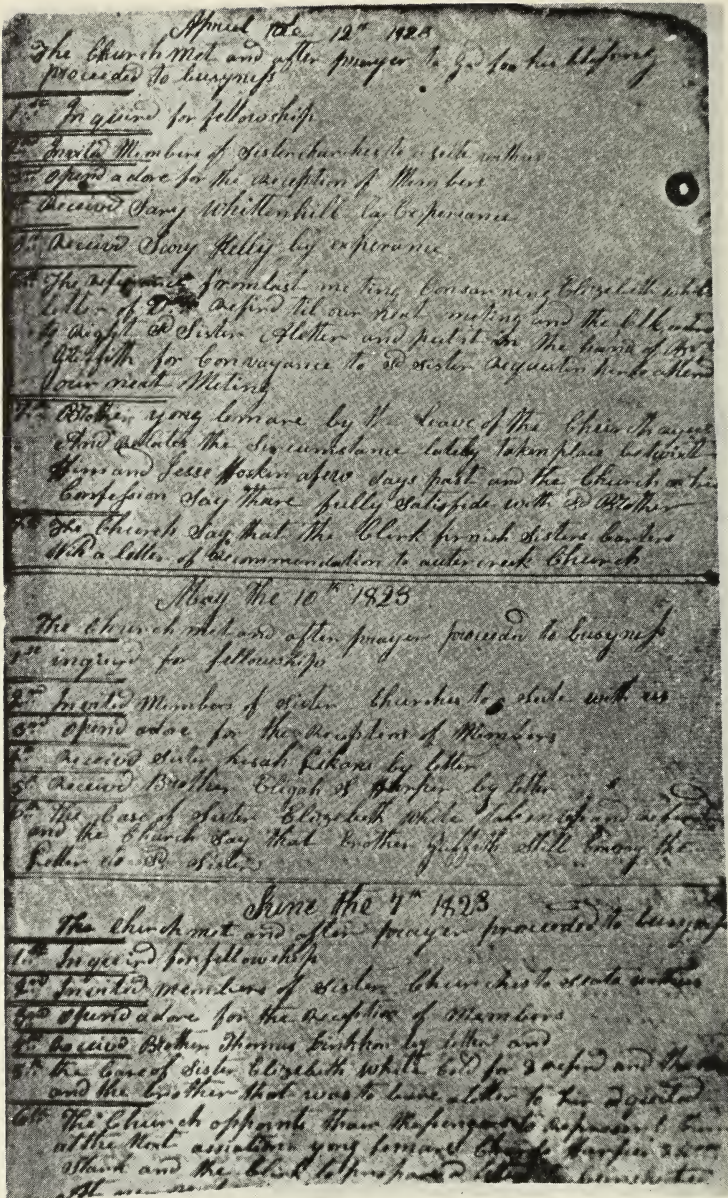


Photo of a page from the Old Pigeon Church Record Book bearing the name of Thomas Lincoln as a member

friends of the Lincolns, told Mr. Taylor Basye (son of John Basye and who succeeded his father in the drug store business in Rockport) the following incident. He said it was the custom for his father to come to Rockport every other Saturday to do their trading, and that the family would come with him in a big wagon. The roads were rough and several creeks had to be crossed, so they always arose before day and made an early start for Rockport, seventeen miles away. When news of the strange, new lamp at Basye's store reached them, the father said to his family on a Friday night before the regular Saturday for their Rockport trip: "We will not get up before day tomorrow to start to Rockport, but will do up the Saturday chores in the morning and take a later start, so that we may remain in Rockport after dark and see this wonderful oil lamp lighted." They did this, and the children never forgot the incident.

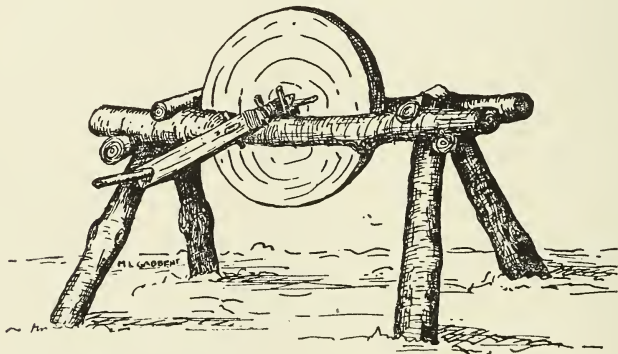
My grandfather, Thomas Pindall Britton, had the first frame residence ever built in Rockport; and my mother, who as a small child lived in this house, told me that every Saturday people came from all over the county, in great wagons or on horseback, and would drive by the new frame house just to look at it and its fine glass windows. Some would come in and ask to see the interior. They too, were of an investigating turn of mind, as was Lincoln in Vincennes when on the way to the new home in Illinois. He stopped and visited the office of the *Western Sun*, and saw his first printing press, of which he had heard back in Spencer County.

Lincoln's contacts with the Ohio River, its ferries, steamboats and shipping; his contacts with the affairs at the Court Houses of both Boonville and Rockport, where he heard the speech-making of the leading lawyers; his friendship with these lawyers and judges of that time, and his associations at the Jones and Gentry stores near his home; the

church services at the Pigeon Baptist Church; all these must have caused him to gather a great fund of information of affairs in general.

Amidst these primitive surroundings, among a plain, candid, straightforward people which had faced the realities of a hard, and a dangerous life but were not afraid of it, the boy Lincoln grew up. Living their life, he acquired that toughness, tenacity, idealism and moral quality of character, which was to carry him through the dark days of the Civil War many years later.

There were many handicaps; lack of education, ungainly physique, pioneer hardships, poverty; in fact, almost all of the things that one considers necessary to success these days, Lincoln did not have — and yet in years to come he was to rise above all handicaps, and with the courage of his convictions win thousands by the clarity and justice of his thinking.



THE LINCOLN INQUIRY

The subject of Lincoln's greatness has been a source of inquiry and investigation. Hundreds of books have been written about this greatest American, some dealing with his political career, some with his life as a whole, some with his peculiar melancholy but more on his ancestry and the possible influences of heredity.

Writers for years have been trying to solve the mystery of the man's rare personality. Born in poverty, with but little schooling, and living in a pioneer age when life was so full of hardships, *where* did Lincoln get his ambition to make something more than the ordinary of his life? *Where* and *when* did he absorb such deep insight? Most writers suggest that all these qualities came to him after he had reached Illinois; because surely it was not in Indiana he acquired them, that state which was made the laughing stock of the world by certain novels dealing with the uncouth, illiterate pioneers in the Hoosier state. Still it has ever been an established fact that Lincoln read everything he could find to read, and yet there must have been something else somehow, somewhere, to inspire him. For Lincoln undoubtedly arrived in Illinois in 1830 almost, if not entirely, equipped for the great work before him.

What, then, is the missing and unwritten chapter in his life? It remained for an Indiana man of good pioneer stock to discover this missing history.

In 1920 Mr. John E. Iglehart of Evansville, Indiana, with the active aid and co-operation of a select body of men and women whom he has described as belonging to the social and intellectual aristocracy of Indiana (most of whom trace a lineage back to the beginning of the State and a number

to the early history of the Territory of Indiana) founded the Southwestern Indiana Historical Society (embracing the eight counties of Warrick, Spencer, Vanderburgh, Perry, Dubois, Pike, Posey and Gibson). Later Knox County was added. Soon after this organization was perfected, knowing that Lincoln was the society's greatest asset and wishing to learn everything possible concerning Lincoln's life of fourteen years in Spencer County, Mr. Iglehart started what was called "The Lincoln Inquiry," the purpose of which was to collect from many new sources information concerning Lincoln's life from 1816 to 1830. In his opinion this missing chapter in Lincoln's life could never be explored until the life of the people in the section of the state where Lincoln found his environment was properly explored, that the former was a corollary to the latter. It should be noted, however, that Lincoln's environment in Southwestern Indiana for at least the radius of fifty miles did not necessarily recognize county lines in social, business and political life. In fact, previous to 1814, there were no county lines in Southwestern Indiana other than those of Knox County, which originally covered a large part of the old Northwest Territory.

After the "Inquiry" was started, and people in Southern Indiana began to write the biographies of their pioneer ancestors and bring forth letters, documents, pictures and old newspapers of that early time, it was discovered that there would be a wealth of history here valuable to Indiana and to the study of Lincoln's life. The Lincoln neighbors, then, form the background for the boy, Abe Lincoln, who worked, played and studied from the age of seven to twenty-one years in Spencer County.

Who were these pioneer neighbors of Lincoln? From where did they come? What was their education, their home life and their ambitions?

It is the descendants of those early people, who live near

the scenes of Lincoln's early life and within a reasonable radius of such locality, who are best able to interpret the Lincoln environment. They know the character and life of the persons in the same locality now and have an accurate, definite understanding of their ancestors in Abraham Lincoln's time. They know the type of men to which Lincoln, as a frontiersman and a descendant of the backwoodsmen of the Alleghanies and the men of the Western Waters, belonged, and appreciate more intimately than was possible for persons not so situated, the environment, opportunities and characteristics of such men. Lincoln was a true representative of Southern Indiana pioneers in the zone north of the Ohio River, who came from the South to obtain free land, and who found here the chance of equal opportunity, which could not exist in slave territory where society boasted and was dominated by an aristocracy whose cornerstone was founded of human slavery. The descendants of these people can produce heirlooms of silver, china, linen, letters, books, and personally furnish an evidence of culture that certainly proves their ancestors to be of good stock and breeding, and not all uncouth illiterates.

My mother told me much of the lives and histories of Spencer County pioneers. Her father, Thomas Pindal Britton, came to Indiana from Virginia in 1827 and settled in Rockport, which is seventeen miles from Lincoln City where the Lincoln family lived. My grandfather was a college man, unusually well educated for that time and did much in helping to settle Spencer County.

History tells us that the Gentrys, Grigsbys, Jones, Brooners, Romines, Hessons, Crawfords, Oskins and Hevrans were the nearest neighbors of the Lincolns. I have known the descendants of all these families, some of whom still live in Spencer County; all were honest, upright, honorable citizens.

Then in Boonville and Rockport were prominent lawyers,

judges, ministers, many of whom the Lincolns undoubtedly knew and some of whom, such as Pitcher and Brackenridge, must have influenced the young Abraham.

Daniel Grass and his son were both men of good minds and breeding, and Abraham Lincoln stayed in the Grass home at one time.

John Pitcher was one of the most brilliant lawyers in the State of Indiana in Lincoln's time. He lived in Rockport when the Lincolns lived in Spencer County, and it has always been known that Lincoln borrowed books from Pitcher. I knew one woman, deceased, a Mrs. Alice Hanby of Mt. Vernon, Indiana, who heard Pitcher say that Lincoln had read some of his books.

In Boonville was John A. Brackenridge, noted lawyer, and it has been shown that Lincoln walked to Boonville to hear Brackenridge in his law cases and to borrow books.

The Gentrys were very superior people, and Lincoln worked for them and was in their home a great part of his youth. He could not help but be inspired and helped by the Gentry family, their standards of living, their home comforts and their conversation. It was with Allen Gentry that Abraham Lincoln made his flatboat trip in 1828 to New Orleans. The Gentrys lived near the home of the Lincolns, which was seventeen miles from Rockport. They brought their produce from there in wagons; their hogs they herded and drove overland and butchered them on a farm near Rockport owned by Allen Gentry. Then at the lower landing in Rockport the flatboat was loaded for its southern trip.

Near the old landing was the home of Alfred Grass, son of Daniel Grass, Spencer County's first landowner and a cultured man. Here Lincoln stayed for a week or two, loading the boat and preparing for the southern trip.

In the Grass family is the tradition of how Lincoln pored over the books that were in their home. Dr. John Grass

Executive Mansion

June 17, 1861

Hon. Sec. of War
My dear Sir

With your concurrence, and that of the Governor of Indiana, I am in favor of accepting into what we call the three years service, any number, not exceeding four ^{advertising Regiment,} from that State. Probably the soldiers come from the triangular region between the Ohio & Wabash rivers, including my own old boyhood home—
Please see Hon. C. M. Allen, Speaker of the La. H. R. and unless you perceive good reason to the contrary, make up an order for him according to the above—

Yours truly
A. Lincoln

HOLOGRAPH LETTER, SIGNED, OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN, REFERRING TO HIS "OLD BOYHOOD HOME" IN SOUTHWESTERN INDIANA.

By Courtesy of Arthur G. Mitten, Goodland, Indiana, Owner of the Original.

In a letter of 1861, Lincoln, when President, speaks of his boyhood home in Indiana, a place dear to his heart always

of Denver, son of Alfred Grass, speaking of those days, said: "Lincoln would sit in the evening near the table with the rest of the family until the tallow dip had burned out; then he would lie down on his back with his head toward the open fire place, so as to get the light upon the page of his book, and there he would often read until after midnight." Dr. Grass said his mother told him it seemed to her that he would bake the top of his head or wear himself out for want of rest, but he was always up in the morning ready for his work.

As I have stated before, the Grasses were educated and well to do. Living in Rockport at that time were other educated and cultured people. They were Judge John Graham, John Morgan, A. W. Dorsey, Samuel Hall, William Berry, John Proctor, John Pitcher, Thomas Britton, Alexander Britton and John Greathouse. Out of Rockport, but within a short distance of where the Lincolns lived, were many families of refinement and culture, and Lincoln's social affiliations were not alone in Spencer County but in Dubois County around the neighborhood of Enlow Hill, as George R. Wilson, Indiana historian, has described it. Also in Warrick County there was Ratliff Boon, Congressman during six years of Lincoln's time, and many others.

All these families Lincoln must have known, and as he was of an inquiring nature, we can be assured he learned all there was to learn from those with whom he came in contact.

We Spencer County people feel that the flatboat trip which Lincoln took in 1828 to New Orleans with Allen Gentry, when he was nineteen years old, and had a man's stature and vision, had much to do with his inspirations and ambitions of later years.

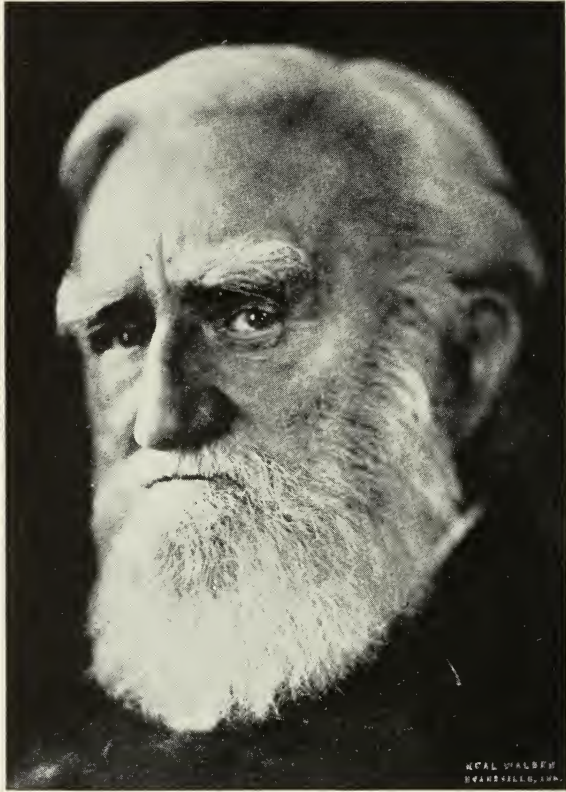
Without attempting to go more fully into details, these suggestions illustrate the field in which the Southwestern Indiana Historical Society has worked for 18 years; under

a common purpose, continuously producing and publishing evidence of the opportunities existing in Southwestern Indiana within a reasonable range of Lincoln's ambitions, investigations and inquiries, and particularly in Spencer and Warrick Counties. Some of our active workers have produced valuable research work in this direction before the organization of this Society, and the work is continuing by men and women of ability, education and culture, who have been to the manor born; they are in sympathy with the people and the life existing within the environments mentioned; they know that the fiction published in an early day does not correctly describe the people, their life and habits as they are actually known to have existed.

Enough has been produced and proper references furnished to all historians and fair minded inquirers to satisfy them of the falsity, unfairness and misleading character of some of the old literature mentioned and of the truth of facts which show a condition of society under which a man of Lincoln's type, ambition and curiosity could develop and did develop as Lincoln did.

That such people and such opportunities were known to, and influenced Abraham Lincoln, should cease to be a matter of surprise to any thoughtful student as it has already ceased with many; since he had a reserve store of knowledge of books and men, and a perfect acquaintance with human nature in pioneer life for a long time before he left Indiana at the age of twenty-one for his new home in Illinois.

Plate 6



JOHN E. IGLEHART

THE MISSING CHAPTER

When Mr. Iglehart began "The Lincoln Inquiry," he made the statement that when the lives of Lincoln's neighbors and friends were written by their descendants, we would have the background of Lincoln's life during his formative years, and this background would be the missing chapter in his life's history.

There have been written for the Southwestern Indiana Historical Society nearly three hundred biographies of those citizens who were Lincoln's neighbors between 1816-1830. 231 of these biographies and addresses are filed with the curator, Miss Ann Page of Evansville, Indiana, in Central Library. From these many interesting stories of pioneer citizens in southern Indiana, we see a rather remarkable group of sturdy, up-standing, God fearing men and women who came to the Indiana wilderness, cleared the forests, built their homes, churches and schools and reared their families. It has been my privilege to know a large number of these people and to know the biographies as written are true.

It would be impossible to include all these historic monographs in one book, but from all this mass of material we gain a composite photograph of the Indiana pioneers who were Lincoln's neighbors. Many of these people were rough in appearance and dress, but a large number of them came from cultured, aristocratic families in the eastern states, and had come to this western country to seek their fortunes.

I am repeating with additions a list of names of some of the best known of these pioneers who lived in Spencer County between 1816-1830, many whose biographies have been written for the "Inquiry" and who were known, or could have

been known, by the Lincolns during their years in Indiana: Grass, Gentry, Richardson, Jones, Crawford, Britton, Luce, Garrett, Medcalf, Barnett, Snyder, Bunner, Wright, Berry, Naney, Proctor, Graham, Lamar, Ray, Hammond, Brown, Brady, Logsdon, Montgomery, Boyd, Mattingly, Deweese, Hackelman, Whittinghill, Langford, Turnham, Haskin, Oskin, Hoskin, Hall, Crooks, Kellams, Grigsby, Cotton, Markle, Roberts, Romine, Taylor, Greathouse, Carter, Lindsey, Huff, Wilkinson, Huffman, Morgan, Veatch, Pitcher, Dorsey, Lucas, Parker, Brooner, Basye, Meeks, Gwaltney, Hevron, Hesson, Bayliss, and many others. These are mentioned especially as being men of public office, ministers, lawyers, doctors, teachers, leading farmers and business men. These men were largely the type that would be an inspiration to a young boy.

In Warrick, Perry and Dubois Counties were many more well known people whom the Lincolns undoubtedly knew, but I mention here only some of those whose descendants are known to me in Spencer County.

What these settlers north, south, east and west of the Lincolns were thinking and doing between 1816-1830 form the background and atmosphere in which Lincoln matured.

The Owenite Settlement at New Harmony, Indiana, and the British Settlement, forty miles from the Lincolns, near Evansville, Indiana, which have been mentioned, were attracting considerable attention. Both of these settlements were made by people of culture, and their libraries consisted of the best books of English prose and poetry. One James Cawson of the British Settlement, a civil engineer and school teacher of London, England, brought out from England into the English settlement in 1818 a library of several hundred volumes, to which he added continuously while in America. This library was preserved by his descendants and some 40 volumes have been donated to the Museum of Arts and History in Evansville, Indiana, by

Mrs. Bertha Armstrong. It is proof today of one library within the fifty mile radius of Lincoln's home, as are the New Harmony books preserved all these years in that seat of culture and education.

Dr. Christopher Coleman, Director of the Indiana Historical Bureau, in an address, "The Lincoln Legend," delivered at the annual memorial services of the Spencer County Historical Society at Nancy Hanks Lincoln Memorial Park, Lincoln City, on May 28, 1933, said:

"Both Lincoln's political principles and his unequalled ability to apply them to each crisis in the measure that public opinion could be brought to their support were the result of his experiences and his associations in Indiana and Illinois. His democratic nationalism he absorbed here in Spencer County and over in Sangamon County. His sensitive accuracy in gauging public opinion came from his intimate contact with the boys and the men of his neighborhood. He was not the abstract genius that legend has made him, aloof from the crowd and distinguished from it by an unique divine endowment. He was in every sense one of the people, one of the people of the pioneer west of the first half of the nineteenth century. Every quality he had he shared with friends and models of his boyhood. His environment emphasized human equality, ambition, nationalism, shrewdness and native wit.

"Legend says, and not a few biographers have patterned their work upon it: See from what unfavorable surroundings the great man arose; see how inexplicably great he was in the contrast he presents to his family and his environment! We can say with much more truthfulness: See what qualities the pioneers of the Middle West possessed, see the product of American ancestors and the Old Northwest! If we lessen the contrast which legend draws between an adverse environment and a supreme achievement, we do not lessen the greatness of Abraham Lincoln. If we draw the

picture of a man who developed gradually under the influence of an invigorating environment and a democratic frontier, a man who joined in movements rather than creating them, we disclose his power of seeing far more clearly than his neighbors into the heart and the meaning of those movements. He towered above his fellows, but he never ceased to be one of them.

"The people who lived here in his boyhood, our own forefathers, cannot be represented as the uncouth, unpromising figures of the Lincoln legend, standing for the depths from which he rose. They were the sturdy, capable builders of American democracy. They leveled the wilderness, they tilled the land, they mastered the mighty rivers, they built a new world in the heart of the continent. These plains, hills and valleys, whose primeval forests Lincoln helped to fell, are not alone reminders of his early hardships, they are the more pleasant to look upon because they nurtured the greatness which the world afterwards saw in him."

The work done by the Southwestern Indiana Historical Society has been recognized by the greatest historians in our land, and letters have come to the society from a number of them to express interest in the "Inquiry."

Working with the society have been several Indiana Lincoln students and writers of note, outstanding among these being Mr. William Fortune of Indianapolis, formerly of Boonville, Indiana. Mr. Fortune was Indiana's first investigator of the fourteen formative years of Lincoln's life here. Judge Roscoe Kiper of Boonville, Indiana, one of the best known lecturers and writers on Lincoln's life; Professor Logan Esarey of Indiana University, a noted writer of Indiana history and a descendant of southern Indiana pioneers; Mr. Thomas J. de la Hunt of Cannelton, Indiana, and Mr. William L. Barker of Warrick County are all historians of note. Mr. Barker compiled the convincing array of testimony in the "Lincoln Trail" which gives the route

followed by the Lincolns when they left Indiana for Illinois. Miss Anna O'Flynn of Vincennes, Indiana, collected the Indiana material for Ida Tarbell's history of Lincoln, which was published by the McClure Magazine.

Charles Baker of Grandview, Indiana, has given years of labor to Lincoln research, trying to learn more about the coming of the Lincolns to Indiana, and the place where they crossed the Ohio.

Deirdré Duff Johnston of Mt. Vernon, Indiana, Emily Orr Clifford and Albion Fellows Bacon of Evansville, Indiana, well known women of southern Indiana, were Mr. Iglehart's able assistants in years of research which he gave to Lincoln's life in Indiana.

Mr. Clarence Wolfe, newspaper publisher, and Mrs. Nora Fretageot, both of New Harmony, Indiana, have written articles concerning the Rappite Settlement and Owen Colony in New Harmony. Lincoln must have been interested in this seat of Indiana culture.

The late Judge Lucius Embree of Princeton, Indiana, and Mr. George Wilson of Indianapolis both have contributed much valuable material on southern Indiana pioneers and the Lincolns. Rev. J. Edward Murr, who knew personally many of the Lincoln neighbors, has written many articles concerning the Lincolns in Indiana.

Mr. Iglehart felt that the evidence presented by Mr. Fortune, Miss O'Flynn and Rev. Murr formed the most convincing and important testimony in our archives, because these three knew and interviewed the neighbors of the Lincolns, visited personally in their homes and so were able to give first hand testimony as to the type of people who were living near the Lincoln farm and were the family's friends.

Major Robert Wood of Princeton, Indiana, in one of his brilliant brochures on pioneer Indiana, says: "Who shall attempt to measure the depth, the breadth and the height of the influences of those old pioneers?"

Professor Ross Lockridge of Indiana University, in a paper on "Lincoln's Kentucky and Indiana Background" presented before our society, said: "In estimating the formative influences that went into Lincoln's ripened conception of liberty and union, we shall first consider his Hoosier raising, his schooling and reading that is his education. Surely we shall forever claim our Hoosier heritage arising from the historic fact that Abraham Lincoln was educated as a Hoosier school boy, in Hoosier school houses, by Hoosier school masters and by the reading of the books which were furnished him from Hoosier homes within the fifty mile radius of early Hoosier culture here in the pocket of Indiana."

Mrs. Carrie V. Halbruge of Rockport, Indiana, granddaughter of John Morgan, Rockport's first postmaster, held a Daguerreotype and Portrait Exhibit of Spencer County Pioneers at the court house in Rockport, March 11, 1929. This collection was to show the type of Abraham Lincoln's neighbors and friends. There were over two hundred daguerreotypes, oil paintings, silhouettes and photographs shown at this time. One realized in looking into these faces that they were a fine, sturdy class of people.

Mr. George Honig, Spencer County, Indiana born sculptor and artist, has done numerous works of art as an outcome of the "Inquiry" as well as much intensive research work on pioneer life.

In each county and town in the nine counties, there are well known students and writers of history who are descendants of the pioneers; and they have presented in interesting form stories of the early life in Indiana, its hardships, dangers, amusements, religious life; its struggles to make progress against heavy odds.

But all alike, these word pictures of the pioneers show us a strong, courageous type of people from whom Lincoln

must have learned something in achievement, leadership and ambition.

As a result, the "Inquiry" has been far reaching; in other states, as well as our own books and magazine articles have been written, and in many historical gatherings the facts of the Indiana years have come into the foreground.

So, directly or indirectly, all these things have had their beginning in the sentiment aroused by Mr. Iglehart's persistent demand that the historical societies, of each of the nine counties affiliated with the Southwestern, help write the story of the fourteen forgotten Indiana years in Abraham Lincoln's life.

This work has been done, and we have accomplished what is called the missing chapter in Lincoln's biography. I give here the list of all papers, addresses and activities concerning the Lincolns, that have been done by the society since it was founded.

North, South, East and West of the Indiana home of the Lincolns, the pioneers have had their biographies written, so that today there is no guess work as to the southern Indiana type of early settlers near the Lincoln home. All papers mentioned are in the curator's files or have been published by the State.

1. "How Abe Saved the Farm," written by C. T. Baker, editor of the *Grandview Monitor*, and published in that paper August 26, 1920.

It is the personal recollection of Mrs. Mary J. Scott, whom I remember quite well. She is a niece of Joe Richardson who was a clerk in the store of William Jones of Gentryville where the Lincolns traded. Mrs. Scott said Thomas Lincoln was not in favor of book learning and often hid or threw away the books with which Abe "was foolin' away his time." He often found fault with Abe for thus using time that he thought might have been better employed at

other things, but that one day he gave good evidence of the value of his learning.

One autumn Abe was cutting corn for a Mr. Carter at the wage of ten cents a day, and his employer and Thomas Lincoln bargained to transfer a portion of the Lincoln farm. Carter wrote the deed and presented it to Lincoln for his signature. Abe looked over the deed before his father affixed his signature and said "If you sign that deed, you have sold the farm." The bargain was for a certain field and not the whole farm. Thomas Lincoln looked Carter in the eye and said, "Somebody lied and 'taint Abe." As was the custom in those days, a fist fight followed. After this event Thomas Lincoln never found fault with Abe for reading books.

2. A paper by the Rev. John Bunner who lived near Meeks church.

I knew Rev. Bunner who died at the age of ninety-two years. His paper was the story of the borrowed book that belonged to Crawford, which has often been told before. Rev. Bunner's article was published in the *Grandview Monitor* of August 26, 1920.

3. A copy of Abraham Lincoln's letter to Mr. David Turnham dated October 23, 1860, and which was presented to the Southwestern Historical Society on June 15, 1923.

4. Paper by Helen Rhoades on "Life of James Gentry," written in May, 1922, and filed with the curator in Evansville.

This paper relates the friendship of the Gentrys and Lincolns and mentions many incidents in the life of Lincoln. It also records the history of the Gentry family in Spencer County. The Gentrys no doubt had a great influence on Lincoln during his boyhood days and the writer of this paper is a great granddaughter of James Gentry.

5. Copy of "Remarks of Honorable Charles Lieb in the House of Representatives on June 28, 1916, on Sarah

Lincoln Grigsby." This was presented to me in 1920.

These remarks include the dedication ceremonies held at the grave when the marker at Sarah Lincoln Grigsby's grave was dedicated, a poem by Max Ehrmann, entitled "Sarah Lincoln," and a paper by Mrs. Nancy Grigsby Inco, daughter of James Grigsby, also one by the late Captain J. W. Wartman on "The Lincoln Family." In this paper Captain Wartman makes the statement that Lincoln was no doubt influenced by the example and conversation of his neighbor pioneers such as Turnham, Jones, Crawford, the Gentrys, Taylors and Grigsbys.

6. Paper by Mrs. Alice Harper Hanby read before the Historical Society, January 31, 1922, in Evansville and published in Bulletin No. 16.

In Mrs. Hanby's paper she dwells on the thought that the fourteen years Lincoln dwelt in Indiana determined his character and that he went forth to Illinois in 1830 almost if not entirely equipped mentally for the great future that lay before him.

Mrs. Hanby proves beyond the shadow of a doubt that Pitcher loaned Lincoln books. She herself saw the two volumes of Blackstone in which Lincoln had written his name.

I quote the following from Mrs. Hanby's paper:

"However the present inquiry may end as to individual claims, it will beyond doubt settle some very important questions. It will determine the debt Lincoln owes his Hoosier environment and the world's debt to those generous-hearted lenders of books in Indiana. Also it will silence forever that cry of illiteracy which we hate and which we know to be false."

7. Paper on "The Brackenridge Family," written by Mrs. Eldora Minor Raleigh of Newburg and read before the Society, January 31, 1922, and was published in Bulletin No. 16.

In her paper Mrs. Raleigh tells of Lincoln being an

occasional visitor at the Brackenridges home and also of his walking to Boonville to hear John Brackenridge in his law cases and to borrow his books.

8. Paper on the Grigsbys, written by Mrs. Bess Ehrmann and read by her at the historical meeting held in Evansville, February 28, 1923, published in Bulletin No. 18.

This is the Grigsby family history and gives Mrs. Nancy Grigsby Inco's assertion that the first law books Lincoln ever read were two that belonged to Aaron Grigsby.

9. Copy of a letter presented by Mrs. Inco to the Southwestern, written by Abraham Lincoln to Nathaniel Grigsby. Also a picture of James Grigsby for the Spencer County Museum.

10. Paper, "More Lincoln Memories," written by Mrs. Inco and read by her at the dedication of Sarah Lincoln Grigsby's Monument, June 20, 1916, and published in Bulletin No. 18.

11. Some historical pictures of granddaughter and great grandson of Rev. David Elkins taken at Nancy Hanks Lincoln's grave. Rev. Elkins was the minister who preached the belated funeral services of Nancy Hanks Lincoln.

12. Newspaper article of February 20, 1915, "Road Travelled by the Lincolns to Illinois," which was written by Cicero Fellingier of Winslow, Indiana.

13. I consider Mr. William L. Barker's paper on Ratliff Boone, written in 1922 and read at the Historical Society, January 31, 1922, and published in Bulletin No. 16, to belong to the Lincoln Inquiry although he does not mention Lincoln's name. Boone was one of those men who by his leadership no doubt drew the attention of the young Lincoln and no doubt helped to influence and mold his opinions.

14. "Lincoln's Boyhood Days in Indiana," written by Judge Roscoe Kiper of Boonville and read by him before the Society of Indiana Pioneers in Indianapolis, December 8-9, 1922, was published in Bulletin No. 16.

This paper mentions the names of a number of pioneer families, one of such is Daniel Grass, who no doubt had a great influence on the young Lincoln and it is also his belief that the New Harmony settlement and their ideas were realized by Lincoln, and that he could have come under the influence of prominent educators connected with the Owen movement.

15. Paper on Daniel Grass, written by his great granddaughter, Laura Mercy Wright, and read before the Historical Society at Poseyville, September 28, 1920, and was filed with papers in charge of the curator in Evansville. Judge Grass's political life began in 1812 as justice of the peace. In 1813 he was an associate judge for Warrick, Perry and Posey counties.

16. Visit of Miss Ida Tarbell in 1922 to Spencer county and Rockport in search of material for her new history, "In the Footsteps of the Lincolns." Miss Tarbell expressed herself to me as being much interested in the "Lincoln Inquiry."

17. Paper by Ida D. Armstrong Moore on "The Lincolns in Spencer County," read by her at the meeting in Evansville.

Joseph D. Armstrong, father of Mrs. Moore, was one of Spencer county's earliest historians and in fact the only one whom I know who has had his material published. He began collecting historical material in 1858 and published a small pamphlet called Spencer County and its Prominent Citizens, or "Extracts from Armstrong's History of Spencer County which is now being written and will be published the present year 1874." I have a copy of this first pamphlet history of Spencer County which was given me by his daughter, Mrs. Mina Cook. Much of this history he used in the Spencer County Atlas which was published in 1879. His manuscripts were also used by the publishers of the Warrick, Spencer and Perry Counties History published in 1885.

Having been a school teacher Mr. Armstrong wrote much on the early schools and of Lincoln's schooling, what little he received. He made a pencil drawing of the Lincoln home in the back of one of his books; this book is a cherished possession of his only living child, Mrs. Mina Cook of Rockport. He also published a vivid word picture of Lincoln's mother, the color of her eyes and hair, complexion and general appearance.

In his first published history of the Lincolns he states that the first teachers, who "boarded round" and taught Abe, said he could read well at the age of eight years.

I knew Mr. Armstrong and remember well his interesting personality and conversation. He was always deeply interested in all Lincoln history and I have in my possession a copy of a letter written February 18, 1901, a short time before Mr. Armstrong's death, showing his interest in the Nancy Hanks Memorial Association. The letter is written on stationery of the General Assembly of the state of Indiana.

"House of Representatives.

"J. D. ARMSTRONG.

"Sir and Comrade:

"Yours at hand and in reply must say that you surely are truly loyal to the memory of Mrs. Lincoln. I have received a number of petitions and yours contains the greatest number of names sent in by any one person. Now as to your help on the committee will say I do not know of any committee appointed or elected in any way. The appropriation, if obtained, will be made to the Nancy Hanks Memorial Association Commission, consisting of the Governor and two other parties whose names I do not now remember. This commission was organized nearly a year ago.

"Respectfully,

"B. B. JOHN."

18. Visit of Rev. Warren to Spencer County in 1923 when he was collecting Lincoln facts for one of his histories of Lincoln.

19. Very interesting talk on "Lincoln" by Rev. John Edward Murr, made at the meeting of the Southwestern in Evansville, February 12, 1924, in which he stated that he had known eleven of Lincoln's boyhood associates.

20. Letter of inquiry from a Mrs. Alfred Beach in Casper, Wyoming, asking for information concerning the Hall family who went to Illinois with the Lincolns. The specific information asked I could not give and so answered and later had some historic data from Mrs. Beach concerning the Hall and Hanks family.

21. Paper written in 1920 by David H. Morgan on "John Morgan, Pioneer," and filed with the curator of the Southwestern in Evansville.

John Morgan the first clerk, first postmaster and first recorder of Spencer County was a man of education and culture. The Lincolns would perhaps have come in contact with John Morgan every time they came to Rockport, therefore his biography belongs to the "Inquiry."

22. "Pocket Periscope," article published February 12, 1921, in the Evansville *Courier* and written by Mr. Thomas J. de la Hunt of Cannelton. Mr. de la Hunt reviews quite a bit of recently discovered data concerning Lincoln, part of which is the recollections of Mrs. Mary J. Scott, whom I have mentioned elsewhere. Mr. de la Hunt quotes Mrs. Scott as saying, "If more children were as ambitious for an education today as was Abraham Lincoln there would be many more college graduates."

23. Newspaper article "Rockport Tavern where Lincoln Stopped," published in the Rockport *Journal* was filed in Spencer County History Book. The tavern was known as the "Sargent House" and Squire J. L. Stewart, a former native resident of Rockport, tells his recollections of Abe

Lincoln. Squire Stewart was an errand boy at the tavern when Lincoln stayed there in 1844, his first visit to his old home after moving to Illinois.

24. A paper on General W. Johnson by Mr. George Wilson and read before the Southwestern Indiana Historical Society at its fifth annual meeting in Evansville, 1924, and was published in the June, 1924, Indiana Magazine of History.

This paper is one of the ablest addresses ever delivered before our society and belongs to the "Lincoln Inquiry," because it deals with the question of slavery at the beginning of the state, a matter of vital interest to the Lincolns, particularly to Abraham. General Johnson was perhaps more generally known than any other man who lived in southwestern Indiana from 1820 to 1830, and so the Lincolns must have known a great deal about Johnson and could have had access to General Johnson's report on the slavery question.

25. "The Birth of a State," by George R. Wilson, read before this society, January 31, 1922, and was published in Bulletin No. 16.

Mr. Wilson says "If you wish a good historical vision of a city you must know the history of the county: if you wish a good vision of a county, it is well to have the vision of a state; and, if you wish a knowledge of a state it is well to know the history of a nation and so on." I think this is necessary when we study the history of a man and so the "Lincoln Inquiry" is concerned with "The Birth of a State."

26. George Wilson's article on Judge James Lockhart, written for the Southwestern Historical Society and published by the Indiana State Historical Society, Publication 8, No. 1, deals with the early period of Indiana shortly after the Lincolns left, but belongs to the "Inquiry."

27. Another paper by Mr. George Wilson that should be included in this list is one on George H. Proffitt and

which was published in the Indiana Magazine of History. This is a history of Proffitt's life in the thirties after Lincoln left Indiana, but it deals to some extent with that period.

28. Paper by Mrs. Samuel Orr on the Casselberry family and read before this society, February 12, 1924, and was published in the Bulletin of that date.

This paper shows that one of the large and prominent families of the early period lived both on the east and west of Abraham Lincoln, and that a creek in Perry County was named after one of Mrs. Orr's ancestors.

29. Paper on "Judge John Pitcher," by Rev. John E. Cox of Evansville was published in Bulletin No. 18. This is the personal recollections of Rev. Cox when he lived in Mt. Vernon and knew Judge Pitcher.

30. Paper by Colonel Gil R. Stormont, of Princeton, on Judge William Prince, published in Bulletin 18.

Judge William Prince filled a large place in southern Indiana history and had so much to do in public affairs that the Lincolns undoubtedly came under his influence.

31. A paper on "Materia Medica of Pioneer Indiana," by Mrs. H. C. Knapp, and read before the society, June 10, 1924, might be linked with the "Lincoln Inquiry" because a part of the life of every community in pioneer days was the pioneer doctor.

In the town of Rockport was an old desk owned by Mrs. Mary Garlinghouse which was made by Thomas Lincoln for Dr. Crooks, one of Spencer County's first doctors. It is now owned by her grandson, Townsend Taylor of South Bend, Indiana.

32. In Thomas J. de la Hunt's History of Perry County is a chapter devoted to the Lincolns and although this history was written in 1916, four years before the Southwestern was founded, I feel that this should belong to the Southwestern as Mr. de la Hunt has given us much pioneer history.

33. In the third volume of Esarey's Indiana History which is marked "Vanderburgh County, by John E. Iglehart," are two features of interest in original research, which belong to the "Inquiry."

First. Something over one hundred pages of original matter by Mr. Iglehart on Early Evansville, and second, beginning at page 119 at the bottom and continuing for about eighteen pages is an abstract of the *Evansville Gazette*, a weekly newspaper published in Evansville, from 1821 to 1825.

Undoubtedly the *Evansville Gazette* files are a very valuable research source. They throw a searchlight for three and one-half years in the early twenties, nowhere else to be found.

Thomas J. Evans was a brother of Robert M. Evans, who lived in Evansville except the year 1827 when he lived at New Harmony, and a brother of the Evans at Princeton who was a wool carder and who advertised in the *Evansville Gazette*. Thomas J. Evans advertised that he was living in Rockport and was doing law business generally in the district. There is independent testimony settled beyond controversy that Lincoln used to go once a year to Evans at Princeton to have his wool carded. So you have Lincoln in touch with the Evans family, one of the leading families in southern Indiana, the family which gave Evansville its name.

Lincoln was doing his wool carding in Princeton where he had to remain several days each time he went and the man with whom he transacted business was a brother to Robert M. Evans, who was a contributor to the weekly papers then published in New Harmony. These facts are an illustration of how this newspaper throws light on the environment of Lincoln.

34. Mr. Iglehart's address on "Correspondence Between Lincoln Historians and This Society" delivered in

Evansville on February 28, 1923, and was published in Bulletin No. 18. In this address Mr. Iglehart states that soon after the publication of Bulletin No. 16. of the Indiana Historical Commission which contained the proceedings of the annual meeting of the Southwestern held in Evansville, February 28, 1922, there appeared an editorial in the *Indianapolis Star* written in the form of a review of the work done by the Southwestern up to that time and especially that of the "Lincoln Inquiry." This editorial closes with the following:

"The purpose of the 'Lincoln Inquiry' is to collect from many new sources information concerning Lincoln from 1816 to 1830. Mr. Iglehart considers it 'one of the chief assets of the society.' If it is carried on with the energy which has characterized the other work of the society, it also will be one of the chief assets of the State."

This newspaper article brought a letter of inquiry to Mr. Iglehart from Senator Beveridge who was then engaged in writing his history of Lincoln. Senator Beveridge expressed a deep interest in the work of the Southwestern and desired to become more intimately acquainted with it.

Miss Ida Tarbell wrote Mr. Iglehart in 1922 in which she sought to obtain information concerning Lincoln for her newest work "In the Footsteps of the Lincolns," not then issued.

In later correspondence Miss Tarbell states:

"I do not believe that Lincoln can be understood without understanding better than I do, at least, Southwestern Indiana. What that country was, what its people thought and did, had, I am convinced, a deep influence on the young Lincoln."

On retiring from the office of president, refusing to stand for re-election, after which he was chosen president emeritus, Mr. Iglehart in his address stated as definitely as the subject permitted, the sources of evidence and inquiry in

original research, open to investigators in pursuing the "Lincoln, Inquiry," in which field he seemed to think there was ample evidence to justify the conclusions at which he had arrived. On account of absence of historical record, this is largely circumstantial evidence furnished from many well established facts, making clear the opportunities which Lincoln actually had, and if he had them there is no doubt that he availed himself of them.

Being unable, as Mr. Iglehart stated, on account of time required in the work and his advanced age, to follow this inquiry in the future, as he had sought to aid in doing through the channels of this society work in the past, he submitted a summary of the sources of information in such research, relating largely to the opportunities of Lincoln while he lived in Indiana.

Of the first importance on this subject, he quoted the statement of Leonard Swett, that Lincoln said to him that he "had read through every book he had ever heard of in that country for a circuit of fifty miles from the farm upon which he lived." The limit of this radius included Vincennes, Princeton, Evansville, Boonville, Rockport, Corydon, the capital of the territory and of the state until 1825, and a center of culture for a much longer period, also close to, if not actually including, New Harmony, and part of north-western Kentucky, including Henderson, the county seat of Henderson County, where some of the descendants of the three Hart brothers (of Richard Henderson & Company) lived, and were men of much influence (David Hart, an able man, one of such descendants, was Judge of the Spencer circuit court in 1818); Mr. Iglehart evidently thought it probable that the Lincolns knew very well the story of the Hart brothers and of Richard Henderson & Company, so important in the first settlement of Kentucky where Abraham Lincoln was born and where Thomas Lincoln lived until he moved to Indiana.

After summarizing many sources of information, too numerous to be mentioned here, which have been investigated in our work, and through which opportunities were then open to a man of Abraham Lincoln's ability and habits of inquiry, and showing in that address (with reference to reliable historical authority) the means of reasonable easy communication for those days, both north and south, and east and west, in southwestern Indiana, particularly the nine counties embraced within the territory of this society, which were then confined in a single congressional and judicial district, Mr. Iglehart gave his conclusions as to the opportunities existing in pioneer life in this section when he lived in Indiana, and how Lincoln knew many of the people who lived within a reasonable distance of his home, which for that time might reasonably be considered a distance of fifty miles, and that he knew about all worth knowing of them; also that in 1830 Abraham Lincoln knew pretty well all that was worth knowing in his locality, and within that radius, which could be learned by reading the papers, intelligent inquiry, and personal acquaintance with the better class of people whose history had not (with honorable exceptions) been properly recorded up to the time of the organization of this society.

He further said that he believed that his conclusion was the correct explanation of the equipment of the man Lincoln, as he is found in Illinois in 1830 and later, and that such an interpretation would furnish the method of solving the problem underlying "The Lincoln Inquiry," none other having been furnished by the historians.

35. There was an outstanding work by George R. Wilson of Indianapolis, "The Lincoln Environs 1816-1830." This gives the Lincoln Forest Field Flora and Family of those years. A most complete work. This is on file in pamphlet form in the curator's archives in Evansville and also in Spencer County. This work was made in the form

of a report for the Research Committee of the Southwestern Indiana Historical Society under the presidency of Bess V. Ehrmann.

36. In the Spencer County files is the correspondence between Mrs. Cordelia P. Wood and Bess V. Ehrmann concerning the neglected grave of Lincoln's mother in 1868, with poem by William C. Corbin, which aroused public sentiment and resulted in the erection of a suitable marker at the grave later.

37. "The Environments of Abraham Lincoln in Indiana — The Best Witnesses, Anna O'Flynn, William Fortune, Rev. J. Edward Murr, Hon. Elbert Hayford, George Honig, Bess Ehrmann." Each of these persons giving information as to the type of Lincoln neighbors from 1816-1830. These papers are on file in Evansville.

38. "The Crawford Family"; by William Adams. Abraham Lincoln worked for Josiah Crawford; William Adams, Josiah's grandson, tells the story of their lives, the home life, the boy Lincoln as a helper and many interesting details of those early Indiana years.

39. A very important paper, "The Lincoln Route," by William Barker, gives the affidavits of numerous people who knew the Lincolns in Spencer County and who knew the route the Lincolns traveled in going to Illinois in 1830. This document was published by the State in the 1926 Bulletin.

40. "The Lincoln Environment," by Judge Roscoe Kiper, is a very convincing article and was published in an extra Bulletin of December, 1925. Judge Kiper was an ex-president of the Southwestern Indiana Historical Society and a noted Lincoln scholar.

41. "Lincoln and the Wool Carder's Niece," by Mrs. Lotta Edson Erwin of Mt. Vernon. This bit of history is most interesting and proves that Lincoln traveled about the environs of southern Indiana and was in touch with people

of different communities within the fifty mile radius that he spoke about. This incident happened in Princeton.

42. "Morris Birbeck's Estimate of the People of Princeton in 1817," by Judge Lucius Embree, gives intimate views of the pioneer settlers in southern Indiana.

43. In an article by Mrs. Lewis Taylor of Yankeetown on "Early Reminiscences of Anderson Township," the sturdy type of the pioneers is again made clear.

44. "Bailey Anderson the First," by Mrs. Sadye Anderson Wilson of Newburg, adds another link in the long chain of personalities who made the background for the Lincoln family in southern Indiana.

45. Like all of George Wilson's historical works, the paper on Senator Benjamin Rose Edmonston is an excellent one. He tells us that the facts set forth in his article have been secured from legal documents, registers of births, deaths, marriages, baptisms, corporation records, wills, title deeds, tax lists and the like. The result gives us the pioneer type to the north of the Lincoln home, years before the Lincolns came to Indiana as the Edmonston family came to Dubois County, about 1808. This paper is to be found in the December 1926 Bulletin of the Southwestern Indiana Historical Society.

46. General Joseph E. Lane, by Eldoro Minor Raleigh, takes us a long trip into the past, and we feel that this man must have been known to the Lincoln family, holding as he did such a prominent place in early Indiana history. Two letters written by Joseph Lane to Col. Wm. M. Cockrum of Oakland City are included in this biography, which was published in the December Bulletin of the Proceedings of the Southwestern Indiana Historical Society of 1926.

47. From the southwestern environs of the Lincolns were the Gaines Head Roberts and McGill families, whose biographies were written by Theodoro Hazen McGill Torrance and published in the March History Bulletin of 1928.

Mrs. Torrance also wrote an article on The Roberts, Hazen and McGill families, which is on file in our curator's care. The two papers making a most complete picture of pioneer settlers in that direction.

48. To the east of the Lincolns were many worth while people; Thomas James de la Hunt in "The Lincoln Eastward Environment" gives us a clear picture of pioneers there.

49. Hon. Mason Jones Howell settled in Spencer County in 1816. Thomas Lincoln settled near him, and Samuel Howell lived one mile south of the Lincoln farm. George Honig writes of these families in an article on file with the curator of the Society.

50. An unusual library in southern Indiana, in early days, was that of James Cawson, and Mrs. W. R. Davidson gave the names of many of these books in a paper entitled, "James Cawson's Library 1818-1840."

51. George Wilson's sister, Margaret A. Wilson of Jasper, has given to our society and our state one of its most valuable records in the form of a paper published in a March, 1928, Bulletin, the title of which is "Buffalo Trails — The Great Wilderness Road of Southern Indiana." Over these trails the Lincolns and our pioneer ancestors traveled in that long ago day.

52. "Jonesboro," by Grace Jeanette Bullock, gave the story of that early settlement of Jonesboro west of Gentryville, where Lincoln worked in the Jones store and where the former residence of Col. William Jones stands and in which Lincoln was a guest in 1844 on his visit to his old home as a Clay elector. With this article Miss Bullock presented a map of the sites of the houses that stood in the old pioneer town. Copies of the map and papers are on file with the curators of Spencer County Historical Society and of the Southwestern Indiana Historical Society.

53. History of Pike County, by Mrs. Beulah H. Gray,

gives a picture of the Pike County neighbors of the Lincolns. Mrs. Gray had done much to establish the worth of Pike County pioneers.

54. Near the Lincolns lived the Powell, Hornback and Gentry families, and the lives of these were written about in the article by Harriet Powell of Lamar.

55. Miss Powell also wrote a most interesting sketch on Nancy Hanks Lincoln with information secured from a pioneer relative. Both of these documents are on file with the Society.

56. "Some Early Troy History," by Sallie Logan Bergenroth of Troy and a descendant of pioneer families, tells the history of the town once so closely associated with the history of the Lincolns in Indiana. It is filed in the Archives.

57. Papers on the life of General James C. Veatch, written by Edna Brown Sanders, David Morgan and Betty Veatch Spayd are in the files and give an insight into this man's life, the paper by his daughter, Betty Veatch Spayd, giving before unwritten pictures of the former Rockport man and early investigator of Lincoln lore.

58. "Life of Thomas Pindall Britton," a public man in Spencer County during the Lincoln residence there, was written by his granddaughter, Bess Ehrmann, and published in the March, 1928, Bulletin.

59. "Word Pictures of Pioneer Families," by Dierdré Duff Johnson, Albion Fellows Bacon and Bess Ehrmann, was published in bulletin form and gives intimate word pictures of some of the old pioneer people whom the writers had seen in their childhood and the impressions left in their minds of these God fearing men and women.

60. "Some Descendants of George DeBruler and Thomas Hargrave, Who Became Pioneers of Pike and Dubois Counties in Indiana," by Eva DeBruler, gives additional insight into the north west neighbors of the Lincolns.

It is interesting to note the intermarriages of the Hargraves, DeBrulers, Kelsos, Niblocks, Barnetts, Hicks and Sharpes, outstanding families, every one proving that in the Indiana wilderness, were cultured and educated people as early as 1800. The descendants of these families still carry on in Indiana today, and among them are some of the best citizens in the state, lawyers, teachers, ministers and doctors.

Bishop Simpson said of one of the Hargraves, Richard Hargrave, the circuit rider, who was born in 1803 and began preaching in 1821, and was no doubt known by the Lincolns: "Few men of the West have addressed larger audiences for a long series of years or reached more hearts."

61. Another powerful pioneer preacher and circuit rider was Rev. Andrew Jackson Strain, whose life story has been told by Miss Margaret Ann Wilson.

Undoubtedly Richard Hargrave and Andrew Strain traveling the southern Indiana wilderness must have been listened to by the Lincolns during their fourteen years' residence in southern Indiana.

62. One of Lincoln's school masters in Spencer County was a man named Sweeney. A descendant of this man, Earl Deweese of Richland, Indiana, himself a school teacher, has written of his ancestor. His paper and poem are on file in the June 5, 1929 minute book of the society.

63. "The Lost Lincoln Cabin in Spencer County," by Colonel C. C. Schreeder, gives his recollections of what became of the Spencer County cabin home of the Lincolns. This cabin was supposedly shipped to Cincinnati and the logs made into relics.

64. Another article by Colonel Schreeder tells of his personal ownership of one log of the Indiana cabin and he tells how he found it at the home site and afterwards had it cut into six inch blocks, polished and then presented to various historical societies and museums.

65. One of the best known pioneer families of Southern

Indiana whose activities undoubtedly touched the Lincolns was the Cockrum family. Mrs. Ella Cockrum Wheatley, a descendant, wrote of this family in her article, "A Son Of a Pioneer Family," in which she referred to Colonel W. M. Cockrum, historian and pioneer.

66. "Judge Lemuel Q. DeBruler" by Eugenie DeBruler Ehrmann and an "Appreciation of the DeBruler Family," by John E. Iglehart, link this pioneer family with the Lincoln Environment: Vol. VIII, pages 146, 147, 171, 176, Indiana Historical Society Publication.

67. From the westerly direction, another pioneer "Judge Henry Vanderburg by Rev. J. H. Vanderburg Somes," and "Judge Henry Vanderburg and His Contemporaries," by Judge W. D. Robinson. Vanderburg County was named for Col. Henry Vanderburg.

68. "Pioneer Families of Spencer County" (Prosser, Jones, McCoy, Howell, Hurst and Smithers Families) by Hamline Prosser, gives a clear picture of other Lincoln neighbors.

69. Lincoln neighbors to the East were the Huckebys written by a descendant, Thomas J. de la Hunt, and shows an educated pioneer family with their high standards of living.

70. "Interviews held with pioneer neighbors of the Lincolns as told by T. Hardy Masterson and John O. Chewning, Jr." written by T. Hardy Masterson. These interviews give some intimate views of the young man, Abe Lincoln.

71. "Associations of Abraham Lincoln in Hammond Township and Grandview," by Charles T. Baker, tell much concerning the friendship of Hammond Township families with the Lincoln family during their residence in Indiana.

72. "Reverend Henry Hart," by J. S. Johnson. Reverend Hart was pastor of Pigeon Creek Church from 1825 to 1835. The Lincolns attended this church and were brought

under the influence of this pioneer preacher. Reverend Hart also preached at Baker Creek Baptist Church and Richland.

73. In the days of the Lincolns' residence in Indiana, the people of surrounding towns were often concerned in activities that in various ways brought them into possible contact with the Lincolns. Although there is, of course, little evidence to show that Abe Lincoln's attention and interest were focused on certain of these happenings, yet knowing the keen mind of the boy and his reaching out to grasp everything worthwhile, it seems that many of the affairs discussed by his elders must have made an impression on the growing boy. So, for that reason, I include in this "Lincoln Inquiry" the biographies and activities of everything with a possible bearing on his mental development.

In the paper "Free Masonry in Vincennes and Princeton," by Robert Archer Wood, it might on first reflection have no bearing on the "Lincoln Inquiry," but we find on reading the paper that William Jones, father of William Jones who had a store at Jonesboro, near Gentryville, and where Abe Lincoln worked at times, was a member of the Vincennes Lodge No. 1, organized in 1807.

The Masonic Lodge in Princeton was founded in 1820 and Major Wood in his excellent paper says: "The Masonic Order rendered good service in those primal days in southern Indiana."

74. "Posey County Lincoln Lore," by Deirdré Duff Johnson, tells of Lincoln's visit to Posey County, also Dennis Hanks' story of Abe's interest in the New Harmony settlement and "the thought of thousands of books just made him wild," so Dennis said.

75. A paper "Elihu Stout," by Alice Cauthorn Potter, is copyrighted by our society. Stout came to Vincennes, Indiana, in 1803. In 1804 he issued the first number of the *Indiana Gazette*, the first newspaper published within the

limits of Indiana, and the first anywhere in the Northwest territory, except *Liberty Hall* and *Cincinnati Gazette* published at Cincinnati, Ohio.

From these papers much early Indiana life has been gleaned. In 1830 Lincoln visited Elihu Stout in the office of the *Western Sun* on his trip to Illinois. The *Gazette* office had been burned in 1806, but in 1807 Stout began the publication of the *Western Sun*.

76. Walton M. Wheeler of Evansville, descendant of pioneers, wrote for our society "The English Settlement." This settlement just out of Evansville was on what is now State Road No. 41, fourteen or fifteen miles from Evansville. It was active in intellectual affairs and had farm clubs over one hundred years ago. Many of the aristocratic families of southern Indiana today are descendants of those people.

77. "John Law," by Christopher E. Coleman gives us the picture of a personal friend and sincere admirer of President Lincoln. He came to Indiana in 1817, settled in Vincennes and lived there about thirty-five years. Dr. Coleman says: "No attempt to describe the character and standing of the population of Southwestern Indiana in the early days of the state can ignore the presence of men such as John Law."

78. With our society were filed papers of General James C. Veatch, relating to the funds raised by Rockport, Indiana, citizens for the fence erected around the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln. These papers had been in the possession of Gen. Veatch's granddaughter, Miss Pet Enlow, and were presented by her to the society.

79. "The Lincoln Atmosphere," by William B. Carleton, explains the attitude now of southern Indiana folks toward Lincoln Lore. Mr. Carleton says: "We live, breathe and have our being in a Lincoln atmosphere in southern Indiana."

80. "The Warrick County Neighbors of the Lincoln Family," by Levi B. Barker. In this paper is a list of families living in Warrick County during the years the Lincolns lived in Indiana. Showing, too, that when Lincoln went into his new home in Illinois he took with him that patriotic zeal, religious impulse and noble moral character that were instilled in him by the people of Indiana.

81. "Literacy of the Lincoln Neighbors," by C. T. Baker, contains a further list of families, who were neighbors of the Lincolns at the time of settling in southern Indiana, their education and books owned, with references of authenticity.

82. "Lincoln's Indiana Neighbors" by Bess V. Ehrmann. This paper gives a long list of pioneers who lived in Spencer County between 1816-1830, and whose descendants are known by the writer, and from whom she heard the stories of the early life and settlers in Spencer County. The writer states that those Lincoln neighbors were clear-minded, unpretending men of common sense, and with unquestionable patriotism. The boy Lincoln was undoubtedly molded by their influence and inspired by their intellect. He became the first true type of American citizen with sterling qualities of heart, humane sympathies, purity of life — the emancipator of a race. This article was published in the 1928 Proceedings of the Indiana History Conference.

83. "Lincoln's Spencer County Friends and Neighbors," by Bess V. Ehrmann, contains the account of twenty-one Spencer County families who were neighbors and friends of the Lincolns and gives their photographs copied from old daguerreotypes and oil paintings in possession of descendants. This article was published in the Indianapolis *Star* of February 8, 1931.

84. "Harbard P. DeBruler Pioneer," by Beulah B. Gray. This man planted a formal garden, remains of which are still to be seen. It was a jewel in the Indiana wilderness.

He called this garden "Delectable Hill." Today, after one hundred years, the offspring of those shrubs still grow and bloom. The DeBrulers and Hargraves were Lincoln neighbors. Mrs. Gray has printed the story of Delectable Hill in booklet form.

85. "A Memorial to Mrs. Eldora Minor Raleigh," by John E. Iglehart. In which the facts of John Brackenridge of Boonville, lending Abraham Lincoln law books, is substantiated by family history, as told in Mrs. Raleigh's historical work.

86. The history of southern Indiana and the Lincoln country is connected with the life and deeds of Hon. Ratliff Boon, so Judge Roscoe Kiper's paper, "An Incident in Warrick County History" is important and tells of the gift of Boon's picture to Warrick County in 1853.

87. "Judge Zachariah Skelton," by Judge Caleb J. Lindsey, tells us the story of this man who came to Warrick County in 1813, was a member of the Primitive Baptist Church and Clerk of Little Zion Baptist Church a few miles from little Pigeon Baptist Church, where the Lincolns worshiped. Little Zion Baptist Church was located on the farm of John Phillips, whose son married a daughter of Judge Skelton and it was John Phillips who had the honor of entertaining the Lincoln family on their journey from Indiana to Illinois.

88. "A Diary and Some Letters written by James Cawson" edited by Mrs. W. R. Davidson. This man came from England to Indiana in 1819, and was a prominent member of the first British settlement. He was a type of southern Indiana pioneer.

89. "The Assassination of Lincoln," by Mrs. Herbert Fitton tells the incidents related by Mr. John Shanklin Ramsey, civil war veteran of Wadesville, Indiana. As Lincoln was carried from Ford's Theatre, his head brushed Mr. Ramsey's coat sleeve and left it covered with blood.

90. "The Grahams, Hudspiths and Dennys," by John E. Iglehart, is a paper concerning these pioneer families and the part they played in developing the Lincoln background.

91. "Lincoln's Kentucky and Indiana Background," by Ross F. Lockridge, is a worth while thesis.

92. "The Relation of Southwestern Indiana Pioneers to those of other Pioneer Sections," by Robert Archer Wood. "Indiana pioneers were no different from the pioneers of New England, Maryland or Pennsylvania," says Major Wood. "The best blood of the East was among us." Mr. Wood's grandfather, Robert Archer, taught school less than twenty-five miles from the Lincoln cabin prior to 1830. Mr. Wood has several pieces of exquisite mahogany furniture and numerous books that were in his family in Indiana many years before the Lincoln departure from Indiana soil, indicating the culture and refinement of pioneer days in Indiana.

93. "Indiana from 1816-1826," by John Hall Woods. The first decade of Indiana statehood clearly shows the worth while pioneer settlers — the populated region of the state being the southern portion.

94. "George W. Brackenridge and Mary Eleanor Brackenridge, children of John A. Brackenridge," by Fannie McCulla, brings to us the family history of the Brackenridges: also the Graham and McCulla families.

95. "William Smithers," by Laura Mercy Wright, his great-granddaughter. This man's life was connected with the early history of Spencer County, Indiana, and with Kentucky history. He was the father-in-law of Daniel Grass, the first landowner in Spencer County. Both of these men probably knew the Lincolns before they came to Indiana as well as later in Spencer County, Indiana.

96. "Thomas B. Graham," by Mrs. Robert Wilson, gives us added information of the notable Graham Family of southern Indiana.

97. "Judge John W. Graham," by George H. Honig. The life of this member of the Graham family is closely connected with the Lincoln family, the two families having been friends in Kentucky and later in Indiana.

98. "Judge John Graham," by his granddaughter, Mrs. Lizzie Graham Taylor, adds many interesting facts to the Kentucky and Indiana life of this family, and an obituary delivered at his funeral reveals many historic happenings connected with his life.

99. "David Robb (1771-1844) Early Pioneer of Gibson County," gives us another pioneer background figure for the Lincoln environment. This history of the Robb family was written by Miss Louise Embree, a descendant.

100. "Richard Hargrave, Pioneer Circuit Rider," by Mrs. Beulah Braselton Gray, completes the picture of this remarkable man mentioned in another paper by Mrs. Gray on the Pike County pioneer family.

101. The names and types of pioneer settlers in all the towns near the Lincoln home gave background for them, as well as the activities of churches, schools, etc. All these things are brought forth in a paper by Robert Archer Wood called "Early Princeton and Gibson County."

102. Mr. Iglehart considered the Grahams one of the important families of southern Indiana, so in his paper "The Graham Pioneers in the Mississippi Valley," he records their history.

103. "Judge Samuel Hall," by Robert Archer Wood, shows Hall as a prominent actor on the stage of public affairs in southwestern Indiana, a lawyer, jurist, politician, legislator, landowner, railway builder and promotor of civil, religious and educational movements. Every new frontier gathers momentum from its outstanding men.

104. "Early Culture of the Pioneers of Southwestern Indiana," by Dr. William P. Dearing. A paper on the pioneer citizens. Dr. Dearing says he has been privileged

in seeing the change of scene in civilization. He was born in a backward locality and saw the departing rear guard of the civilization in which Abraham Lincoln played and grew to young manhood.

105. A paper on the Bethel family of Warrick County, whose members settled in Warrick County in 1815, was written by members of the family and read by Mrs. Robert Wilson.

106. Arietta F. Bullock, the wife of the present owner of the Col. William Jones home on the old Jonesboro village site, had published in 1931 a poem "Old Time Tales Told of Jonesboro." This poem was read by its author at the unveiling of the marker three years ago marking the site of the Jones store.

107. "Pioneer Families of Spencer County," by Alda McCoy Honig, gives added pictures of the Lincoln friends in Indiana.

108. Interview with James A. Jones on "The Lincoln Cabin" by George Honig. Mr. Jones visited the Lincoln cabin before it was "torn down" and gives the description of how it looked a short time after the Lincolns moved to Illinois.

109. "Lincoln Environment," by Lucius Embree. Another testimony of the pioneer settlers who lived near the Lincolns.

110. "The Graham Family," by Eldora Minor Raleigh. Added information concerning this pioneer family.

111. "What Indiana Did For Lincoln," by Bess Ehrmann, shows the influences that helped to mold the character of the growing boy.

112. "Boone Family and Brackenridge Family," by George W. Morrison, tells the connection these families had in shaping the destiny of a wilderness country and its settlers and their friendship with the Lincolns.

113. "Dubois County," by Mrs. W. A. Wilson, gives

the history of the Lincoln neighbors North of their home.

114. A very unusual history postcard map made by Mr. George Honig, artist and sculptor, shows all historic sites in Indiana connected with the life of Abraham Lincoln. It is said to have more historic information in such a small space than anything of the kind ever made.

115. "Daguerreotype and Portrait Exhibit of Spencer County Pioneers" held in Spencer County by Mrs. Carrie V. Halbruge and Committee of the Spencer County Historical Society.

With these many biographies of Lincoln neighbors we have rounded out the "Lincoln Inquiry" begun in a small way in 1920. Activities developed by the "Inquiry" have been of historical value in many places and ways.

Directly or indirectly all these affairs had their beginning in the sentiment aroused over the state by Judge Iglehart's persistent demand that the historical societies of each of the nine counties affiliated with the Southwestern Indiana Historical Society help write the story of the fourteen forgotten Indiana years in Abraham Lincoln's life.

In Spencer County much has been accomplished through the efforts of the Spencer County Historical Society, the Lincoln Trail Club of Grandview, the Indiana Lincoln Union and the Indiana Lincoln Memorial Association.

116. A pageant "When Lincoln Went Flatboating From Rockport," has been given biennially in Rockport three different years, 1926, 1928, 1930, and with two performances each year. This pageant was given as a living memorial to the life of Abraham Lincoln in Spencer County and was given on the exact spot on the Ohio River where Abraham Lincoln left on his first flatboat trip to New Orleans with Allen Gentry. It is mentioned later. The departure of the flatboat for New Orleans when Lincoln was nineteen years of age was, of course, the climax of the pageant, and spectators thrilled to see the flatboat as it floated down stream

with the tall young Lincoln handling the great oar of the boat. Most of the actors in this pageant were direct descendants of the people who knew Lincoln and were his neighbors.

117. A great piece of work was the filming of the 1930 pageant in order to preserve this event for future generations. The generosity of Mr. John L. Iglehart, cousin of Mr. John E. Iglehart, made this possible.

118. "The Lincoln Pageant," an article written by Bess V. Ehrmann and published in the *Indiana Club Women* of 1930, explains the "Lincoln Inquiry" and how the Lincoln pageant "When Lincoln Went Flatboating From Rockport" was an outgrowth of the "Inquiry."

119. The Perry County Historical Society and the Spencer County Society erected a marker at Anderson Creek to mark the spot where the boy Abraham Lincoln worked as a ferryboat helper while living in Spencer County.

120. The Lincoln Trail Club of Grandview erected a number of markers to mark the places in Hammond Township connected with the Lincolns during their fourteen years in Indiana.

121. In Rockport a marker was erected in front of the old tavern where Lincoln was a guest in 1844, on his return to his old home as a Clay elector. This was financed by the Rockport Business and Professional Women's Club.

122. A marker has also been erected at the old Colonel William Jones residence where once stood the Jones store, then a part of the little settlement called Jonesboro.

123. The Lincoln Union has been improving the Nancy Hanks Lincoln Park in which lies the remains of Lincoln's mother and the site of the cabin home of the Lincolns. A monument, marking the home site, was erected by Spencer County citizens, but has recently been moved to The Trail of Rocks in the park.

124. Each year since 1927 on the Sunday before Dec-

oration Day, the Spencer County Historical Society has held a memorial service at the Nancy Hanks Lincoln Park, as a tribute to the mother of Lincoln. Noted speakers have addressed the people that assembled each year.

125. In Warrick County the Boonville Press Club assembles its members and guests from many directions and hold a yearly service at the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, thus keeping alive the memory of the Lincolns in Indiana.

126. In Boonville the Warrick County Historical Society, through the generosity of Mr. William Fortune of Indianapolis, has erected a splendid memorial to Abraham Lincoln. On this monument is the record of Lincoln's visits to Boonville to borrow books and to hear John Brackenridge plead his law cases. It also marks the spot where the Lincolns passed on their way from Indiana to Illinois in 1830.

127. In Vincennes, the people have given a pageant of the Lincolns' Indiana years and on their visit to Vincennes in 1830 enroute to the Illinois home.

By all these affairs held in southern Indiana, in honor of Abraham Lincoln, we see that the citizens have become imbued with the idea of carrying out the plan of the "Lincoln Inquiry," as originated by John E. Iglehart in 1920.

128. "Lincoln, The Hoosier," a biography by Charles Garrett Vannest, was, I believe, an outgrowth of the "Lincoln Inquiry" in Indiana.

129. Miss Ida Tarbell's magazine article on "Lincoln, The Boy" was written about the Lincoln pageant given in Rockport. This article was published in the *New York Herald Tribune*, July 1, 1928. Miss Tarbell says: "Probably no more interesting monument will ever be raised to Abraham Lincoln than the one the Spencer County Historical Society is doing, a biennial pageant on the Fourth of July, celebrating the life of the boy Lincoln in their county. . . . The leaders in it speak of it as the "Lin-

coln Inquiry," and what they mean by that is that they are trying to establish beyond doubt what kind of people made up their community from 1816-1830, what they were thinking and doing, which means what kind of thoughts and actions played on the impressionable nature of this extraordinary boy."

130. One of the society's greatest inspirations has been the interest of Miss Ida Tarbell in our work. She has kept in touch with the work from year to year, as did the late Dr. William E. Barton, and has written many other magazine articles concerning the Indiana years of Lincoln's life.

131. "When Lincoln Went Flatboating from Rockport," a newspaper article by Bess Ehrmann, was the story of the pageant as a part of the "Lincoln Inquiry."

132. Pilgrimages to the Nancy Hanks Lincoln Park have become a yearly affair now in many Indiana schools and also from some of the neighboring states.

133. Rev. Louis A. Warren of the Lincoln National Life Foundation, Editor of "Lincoln Lore" at Fort Wayne, Indiana, has been doing a very extensive and exhaustive work on the life of Lincoln in Indiana. Dr. Warren has written several papers for the Southwestern Indiana Historical Society and has shown appreciation of the works of the society in the "Lincoln Inquiry"; he is an honorary member of the society.

134. Mr. Charles Baker, of Grandview, has written a Lincoln play, using the pioneer friends of the Lincolns and the Lincoln family as the actors in the drama.

135. "The Ohio Valley as the Keystone of the American Union," a very interesting and valuable paper, was written by Dr. A. L. Kohlmeier, of the History Department of Indiana University. As Lincoln was developed in this Ohio Valley, it too is a part of his background.

136. One of the early families in Spencer County was the Barnetts. A paper on their history in Indiana was writ-

ten for the society by a great granddaughter, Miss Helen Barnett. Such families as this one were worthy founders of our county and state.

137. An address by Judge Roscoe Kiper on "Lincoln's Boyhood in Spencer County" was delivered at the Dedication Program of the Lincoln Pioneer Village in Rockport on July 4, 1935. Later, this address was read before the Southwestern Indiana Historical Society and is now on file with our curator.

138. "A Fourth of July in Lincoln's Time and Today," an address by former Attorney General Philip Lutz was delivered on July 4, 1935, at the dedication of the Lincoln Pioneer Village. I have quoted an excerpt from this paper.

139. "The Pioneer Mother," a paper on Nancy Hanks Lincoln's life in Indiana, was written by Laura Mercy Wright, a great granddaughter of Daniel Grass. It was read May 27, 1934, at the annual memorial held at the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln under the auspices of the Spencer County Historical Society. I quote one excerpt from Miss Wright's paper:

"Today our minds turn to this mother of the great Emancipator, who with her family lived on the farm now transformed into the Lincoln Shrine, which is to be handed down to succeeding generations as a memorial, a piece of work that bespeaks the sentiments of its people. Here on this land Nancy Hanks Lincoln lived, here she died, and here she lies buried. This ground is hallowed ground."

140. A play "Lincoln's First Great Sorrow" written by Miss Alice Hebert, presented July 3, 1936, in Rockport.

141. The organization of the Southwestern Indiana Civic Association is one of the latest results of the "Lincoln Inquiry." Its purpose is to advertise the Lincoln Country to the world. It is composed of nine counties, all within fifty miles of the Lincoln home. The Association has recently issued an interesting booklet called "The Lincoln Country."

No doubt there are numerous Lincoln articles, books and activities, outgrowths of the "Lincoln Inquiry," that are not recorded here, but I have tried to enumerate most of the outstanding results of these years of research by the Southwestern Indiana Historical Society from 1920-1938.

The State of Indiana owes Mr. Iglehart a great debt of gratitude for awakening its citizens to the fact that they had been neglecting one of the greatest historical episodes in the state's history, namely, the forgotten fourteen formative years of a boy's life; a boy who was later to be called one of the five greatest men of all time.

Plate 7



MR. WILLIAM FORTUNE

PART II

AN INDIAN INVESTIGATOR

In the year 1881, Mr. William Fortune of Boonville, Indiana, now of Indianapolis, one of Indiana's best known and honored citizens, came to Spencer County and interviewed a number of people then living who had known Lincoln when he lived here.

By the kind permission of Mr. Fortune, I quote here part of an address made by him in Princeton, Indiana, November 12, 1925, before the Southwestern Indiana Historical Society on the "Lincoln Inquiry." It has been considered one of the most valuable addresses ever presented before our society and contains information that is not found elsewhere.

Mr. Fortune said:

"It is my opinion that there has not yet been published a sufficiently true and worthy story of Abraham Lincoln's life. The treatment of the formative period of his life has been, to say the least, quite inadequate, and I feel that there has been a deplorable failure by biographers to present to the world the facts which disclose understandingly the influences that entered into the making of Abraham Lincoln as a great man. This society in a larger measure than any other agency is producing the information essential to the future proper treatment of the subject. I here offer the suggestion that if no other facts were available, the research work that has been so well done by contributors to the records of this Society and by Judge Iglehart in the several papers so carefully prepared by him, supplemented by the portrayal of pioneer life in Indiana by Logan Esarey, can

be safely accepted for the guidance of future writers in developing worthily and truthfully the story of the life of Abraham Lincoln in Indiana.

"When Thomas Lincoln came over here Indiana had not yet been admitted as a state. He came not into Spencer County, because Spencer County did not then exist, but he settled near the boundary line between Warrick and Perry Counties, in what is now Carter Township, in Spencer County. Warrick County originally extended from along the line of Harrison County to the Wabash and Ohio Rivers and embraced about all of the territory that now constitutes what we so frequently call 'The Pocket' of Indiana. Perry and Spencer Counties were created out of what was previously Warrick County, which was a region of dense woods of very large trees. Those of you who belong at least to the last generation have not seen here such trees as those that made the woods of southern Indiana at that time. The Indians had been gone only a few years when Thomas Lincoln brought his little family into Indiana. The last Indian massacre had occurred only a few years before not far from the point where the Lincoln family settled, with the killing of a pioneer named Meeks by some of the Shawnee band of old Chief Setteedown. They had been pursued by the white settlers of that region. Setteedown was captured and in the night was shot in the cabin where he was confined as a prisoner, presumably from such evidence as has come down to us by one of the Meeks family, and that was the last of the Indians in old Warrick County, then a forest with all the wilderness that we can well imagine, in which there was abundance of wild game. The few pioneers who had at that time ventured into this region were widely scattered. There was a census taken three years before Thomas Lincoln came with his little family, and that census showed that there were fourteen hundred

and fifteen white people in Warrick County. In all that region of Indiana from the Harrison County line to the Wabash and Ohio Rivers, there were only two hundred and eighty-five white persons who were twenty-one years old or over. You will realize, therefore, from this census information that the settlers were widely scattered, and yet the very sparseness of population brought these pioneers in the woods in close alliance and friendship as neighbors. That was the kind of country into which Thomas Lincoln brought his wife and two children, Abraham then being between seven and eight years of age.

“Abraham Lincoln at that age came here with some little education which he had gained in Kentucky. He had learned ‘to cipher’ as they called it. He had learned to read, and he had learned to spell, of course, and all of that was very unusual. There were very few children who had gained that much education and advantage. When the true story of the development of Abraham Lincoln is written, it must take into account in all conditions and influences the life of the people who were abiding here in the Indiana forest. To find then what could have been the influences that entered into the development of this boy into a man you must look for those who were leaders among their neighbors, and who were the outstanding examples and influences of the community. In doing that I think that we will come to the point where you must look with particular care to that period of time between 1825 and 1830, because that will cover the period of time when Abraham Lincoln was passing from his sixteenth to his twenty-first year, and that is the period of time when his mind was grasping most eagerly for the kind of information that would constitute a part of his education. It is in that period of time when he was best capable mentally of digesting and applying such information as he acquired, and it was in that period of time when we

know from the testimony of some of the survivors that he was then going down to the roadside and waiting for tourists to pass to question them and to learn from them something of the great world of which he knew mainly through this first hand information or interviewing. Not much before then could it have been that he was venturing forth upon long walks to find books. The testimony of the survivors was without exception, as I recall their words, that 'he was a great reader', 'he wasn't like other boys,' 'he didn't take much part in the social pleasures of the time, but he could nearly always be seen reading a book,' and it was out of the books that he borrowed and read, as well as from the talk that he heard about the questions of the day from the men he met who were best able to discuss them and his occasional talk with some of these men that he got such education as he acquired. But one thing we must recognize is that Abraham Lincoln was an unusual child of Providence, that he came into this world with a great destiny before him and he was endowed with the kind of mind and the qualities of character that made it possible for him to fit himself for the tremendous task that was ahead of him. There was something of consciousness in Abraham Lincoln himself that Destiny held for him a great task, for in one of the interviews that I had with Mrs. Josiah Crawford, she told me that 'Abraham was always making fun,' and that one day when he was at her house and was making jokes, his sister, Sarah, who was there, as she lived with the Crawfords and helped with the work in payment for her board, said, 'Abe, you always make fun of everything. I wonder what is going to become of you.' And he answered in a flash, "I'll tell you; I intend to be President of the United States before I die." He was a boy when he said that. There are many boys who may have said something of that kind in their time, but in the case of Abraham Lincoln it came true. We can see that there was in him some

consciousness even at that time of what was to come into his life.

"I am getting away from the immediate point of my talk, and that is, that when the biographer of Lincoln adequately portrays this part of his life as completely as it needs yet to be written, he must look to the people who were examples in the neighborhood in which Abraham Lincoln grew up. Who were those people and what kind of people were they? It is not impossible to develop this information, but it may be difficult. Who were the men who lived within walking distance of the Lincoln home? We know that among the men who were prominent at that time as leaders in that region were Ratliff Boon, Daniel Grass, Joseph Lane, Hugh McGary and John A. Brackenridge; there are many others. My suggestion would be that we find more of them, and this can be done. Abraham Lincoln may not have had contact with all of them, but remember that in that time there were so few people that all of them in a wide area would probably know one another.

"The social life centered around 'log rollings' and 'husking bees' and camp meetings and religious gatherings and 'shooting matches,' and visits to the general stores at the cross-roads. There they came together and exchanged information and discussed the subjects that were of interest to them in their backwoods life. It is known that Abraham Lincoln was a frequenter of the store located at the point which is now Gentryville, and for a while was employed in it. He was known as a boy who could get up and make a good speech, he was known as a boy who could give recitations, and it is known that he had distinguished himself in the community as one who could write. Usually he put his efforts at writing in the form of an imitation of the scriptural Chronicles. Sometimes he wrote what they called a poem, but it was usually doggerel of the worst kind. The people of the backwoods at that time thought it quite won-

derful that a boy could write anything in words that might seem to rhyme, and so he was known from these performances as a very unusual person.

"The place where Lincoln lived was well in contact with the line of travel through this part of the country. The first mail route established in southern Indiana was between New Harmony and Louisville via the place where Boonville stands, and that was established even before the Lincoln family arrived in Warrick County. It brought the travel of the country along their way. That enabled Lincoln to meet strangers and to learn from them something as to the rest of the world. This part of Indiana at that time was in a political way of some importance.

"One of the outstanding men in public life was Ratliff Boon. He was the first congressman from Indiana and was in Congress for sixteen years. In that day it was about as important to be a congressman as it was to be a United States senator. In some respects a congressman better served the purposes of his constituents than the senators. For a brief period he was governor of the state. Ratliff Boon lived near Boonville, twelve miles away from the Lincoln family home. Ratliff Boon was a very important figure in Indiana. He was much sought and was much talked about at the 'log rollings' and the 'husking bees' and in the general store discussions. I am mentioning Ratliff Boon more particularly because of his importance as a public man. All that came in the time when the Lincolns were here and you can well understand that Ratliff Boon's political activities were probably among the influences of that sort that had some part in the life of Lincoln.

"About ten miles farther away was Joseph Lane, who was a very popular young rival of Ratliff Boon and so great was his popularity that Ratliff Boon became impressed with the idea that it would be well to get rid of Joe Lane by creating another county and so draw the boundary lines as

to throw Joe into the new county. Some of the evidence of that you will now find if you will notice the line that is drawn between Warrick and Vanderburg Counties, where, at a certain point, there is a jog in the boundary line apparently without any good reason, making an irregular bit of ground between Warrick and Vanderburg Counties. Ratliff Boon who was a dominating man at that time politically was able to have that line drawn so as to have the Lane farm thrown over into Vanderburg County and thus he disposed of Joe Lane, who was one of the rising young men who seemed likely to become a dangerous rival.

"It is an interesting fact that Lane in later years became a general in the Mexican War, and governor of Oregon and a senator of Oregon and finally was nominated for vice-president on the Breckinridge ticket in 1860, and the Breckinridge and Lane ticket was in opposition to the ticket on which Abraham Lincoln was a candidate for president. Lincoln and Lane came from the same neighborhood in Indiana where they were not more than twenty miles apart and in the same year had risen to the prestige of becoming candidates on opposing presidential tickets. So far as we know, there has not come down from Lane or Lincoln any recognition of the fact that they had come from the same neighborhood in Indiana.

"Daniel Grass was an important figure at that time in that region as a political leader. John A. Brackenridge at Boonville was a man whose ability and brilliance as a lawyer had attracted wide attention through this backwoods country. We have evidence that he had undoubtedly become an example and an inspiration to Lincoln. We have some information that has been brought out mainly through the President of your Society, Judge Kiper, that Lincoln often walked twelve miles to Boonville to visit John A. Brackenridge, to talk with him and to borrow books from him, and that he was getting from Brackenridge much of the knowl-

edge and inspiration that entered into his own making as a man. And there are others. I mention these outstanding men to bring them into the picture of the Indiana environment of Abraham Lincoln.

"In Lincoln's twenty-first year when he moved from Indiana to Illinois, he was what his life in Indiana had made of him. But it seems that when he got over into Illinois these qualities commanded more attention than they had received in Indiana and we find him very rapidly rising in recognition until within a period of thirty-five years afterward he had become the greatest American of all time. Now it is a fair and reasonable presumption that Abraham Lincoln carried from Indiana into Illinois the knowledge and the ability and the qualities that enabled him to go on with the career that followed and that these qualities were not derived from inferior people, but from sterling men who were equal to the stern test of pioneer life and who developed themselves. In fact the first few years of his life in Illinois were not years of much gain or upbuilding. He was a laborer and operated flatboats and split rails and was a clerk in a general store, but there had come to him some recognition from his associates that he was an extraordinary person. The amusing stories that he told were gathered largely from his experience in Indiana.

"You want to be told something about what I know about Abraham Lincoln's life in Indiana. Judge Iglehart indicated to you in his comment this morning something as to how I became interested in Lincoln's life in Indiana. It is true that as a boy I had made a very amateurish attempt at writing the history of my native county. The writing was done when I was between fifteen and sixteen years old, and the book was published a year or more afterward. I mention my age in explanation and apology. It was rather an unusual thing to do at that time. There wasn't really much of historical spirit as you know it now. And there wasn't

much interest in local history. This little book attracted some newspaper attention, and some of this fell under the eye of General James C. Veatch, then living at Rockport, who was then holding the position of internal revenue collector for the district of southern Indiana with headquarters in Evansville. He was in his day one of the foremost men of Indiana. He rose to the rank of a Major-General in the Civil War and was a personal friend of Abraham Lincoln and was chosen by the Indiana General Assembly as chairman of the Reception Committee of citizens who officially represented our state in welcoming Lincoln when he crossed the boundary line between Illinois and Indiana on his way to the national capitol to become President of the United States. General Veatch told me that on that occasion Lincoln had asked for information about many of his old friends in southern Indiana, that he seemed to vividly remember them all and had sent personal messages to a large number of them.

"General Veatch was in the habit of traveling between Rockport and Evansville over the week end. He wrote a letter proposing to stop at Boonville to see me on one of these journeys and soon afterward he visited me. I think General Veatch was very much astonished when he found he was talking to a boy then about seventeen years old, and I felt that he must have been for the instant somewhat discouraged in his purpose, but he told me that he was very much interested in Abraham Lincoln, that he had gathered a good deal of information about Lincoln's life in Indiana, that he thought that more of that work should be done, and hoped that I would be interested in doing it. He said there were still living a number of people who had known the Lincoln family, and he proposed that I go with him to visit a number of these survivors then living in Spencer County. I very eagerly accepted the proposal and together in October, 1881, we spent some days driving about in

Spencer County interviewing these survivors. I have notes of these interviews as taken at that time in a much faded little notebook still in my possession. For many years it was lost, but was found after many months of search in 1923 while I was on a trip around the world.

"Among the people I interviewed at that time were General Veatch, Mrs. Polly Egnew, Mrs. Polly Stapleton, Joseph Richardson, Silas Richardson, David Turnham, Henry Brooner, Henry Beeler, Mrs. Josiah Crawford and Nathaniel Grigsby. Now it seems to me that it may be somewhat tedious to take those notes, mere fragments of information, and read them to you here today, but it might be better to rather review some of the notes in a general way, pointing out some of the more significant points. Mrs. Ehrmann has suggested that it would be interesting to have descriptions of some of these people. Out of the blur of impressions that come with the lapse of time, I doubt if I could give much of a description of the persons interviewed, but some of them are outstanding.

"And chief among these I recall Mrs. Josiah Crawford. She was the widow of the man who lived in the Lincoln neighborhood who was distinguished as having had the advantage of some education, and who was very much interested in Abraham Lincoln and helped him a great deal. He was not, however, the man who for a while was the teacher of Lincoln as has been mistakenly asserted. The teacher's name was Andrew Crawford. Mrs. Crawford was a very bright woman and quite vivacious. Her memory seemed quite clear and definite. She talked rapidly. She was a woman of more than usual refinement of speech and manner, and yet, in her conversation, there was a good deal of the dialect that belonged to the early days of Indiana. It is a mistake for us to deny that there was dialect. I accept 'The Hoosier Schoolmaster' as a description of life in southern Indiana in that period of time, especially as to

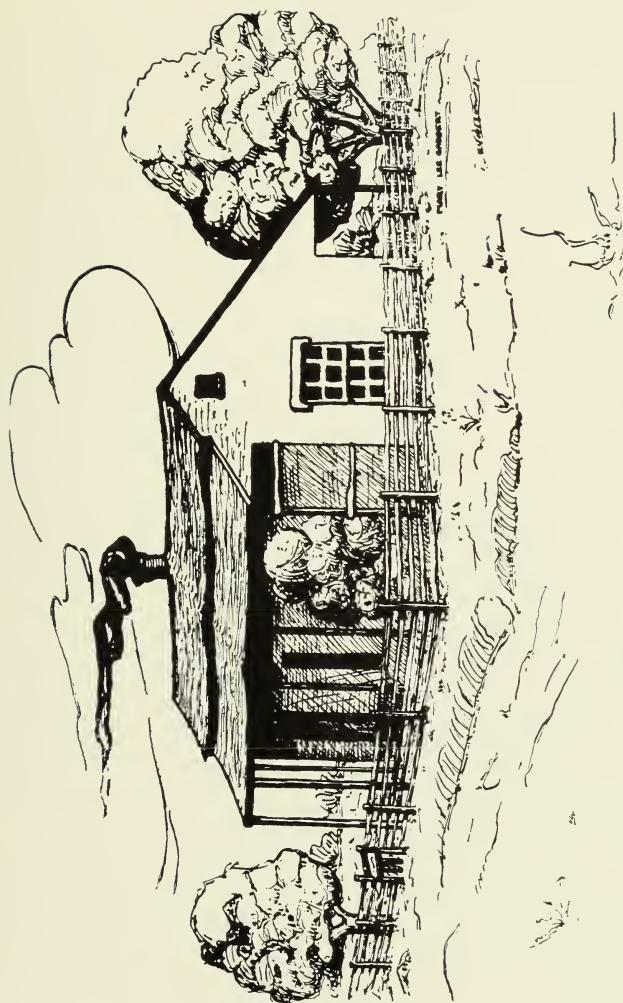
dialect, but that book was fiction and not history. I have, however, seen enough of it to know that Eggleston gave a rather faithful description of what we call the backwoods life of Indiana. I accept, too, in other even unfair descriptions of some of the backwoods life, versions as to the dialect of Indiana pioneers, but I do not think that dialect is conclusive evidence of deficiency of character or ability on the part of the Indiana people of the early days. I accept the Hoosier dialect of James Whitcomb Riley as applicable to a class of Indiana people, but not all Indiana people. It cannot be fairly asserted that certain peculiarities or faults of speech determine the character or intelligence of all people living in Indiana then or now. There was for a time a distinct Hoosier dialect just as there is a Kentucky kind of talk that is peculiarly Kentuckian and a kind of New England language that is regarded as typical of the Yankee. These little peculiarities of speech do not affect seriously the people of these regions. Abraham Lincoln rose above whatever there was of that in his early environment until he was able to deliver the master speech of all time, his Gettysburg address. And later others have arisen from among us as speakers, poets and writers who have brought to Indiana great distinction in literature. Is there a state in all of the Union today that has the literary celebrity that attaches to Indiana? It may even be of some significance that most of the famous writers of Indiana as shown in Meredith Nicholson's book on 'The Hoosiers' came from the southern half of the state.

"Whatever may be said about the Hoosier dialect is wholly inconsequential so far as it is traceable in the life of Lincoln. The Hoosier dialect was, I think, a pioneer phase of Indiana literary genius. It largely grew out of a sense of humor. This is shown somewhat in the deliberate distortion of proper names to make them sound funny. This was so commonly practiced in the Lincoln neighborhood that some

families became as well known by 'nicknames' as by their true patronymics. Even the Lincolns were so frequently called 'Linkhorn' by their neighbors that they were solemnly mentioned thus in the church records of their locality. It was a phase of backwoods life. Resentment of it isn't worthwhile.

"The slang of a later period is another phase of affection or ingenuity of expression. Eggleston was a reporter of dialect, which may have been the crude pioneer origin of Hoosier literary expression. Stages of progress are represented by the later peculiar humor of Artemas Ward and Petroleum V. Nasby, who are known to have been in such favor with Lincoln that he carried around with him and often read to others their latest effusions. Evolution of the same trend of humor has brought to us as a phase of literary style, Kin Hubbard's facetious and philosophical comment on modern life through the creation of the Hoosier character of Abe Martin of Brown County, Indiana, which James Whitcomb Riley regarded as the most unique literary development of the last half century. Contemporaneously we have George Ade's rather picturesque use of words for his grotesque conceits. The outstanding exponents or leaders of different periods of native Hoosier expression are, therefore, Eggleston, Riley, Abe Martin and Ade, with the dialect of southern Indiana pioneers of Lincoln's time as the beginning of Hoosier literary development.

"It was interesting and of some significance to find some of the early dialect of southern Indiana in the talk of Mrs. Josiah Crawford and now I come back to my interview with her. Mrs. Crawford said that she had a feeling of great friendship for Abraham Lincoln and of sympathy for him. She spoke rather freely about the life of the Lincoln home. She said they were very poor people. They had little of even the comforts of that time in their home. Life in the Lincoln home was so hard that she had invited Sarah, Abra-



Home of Mr. and Mrs. Josiah Crawford

ham's sister, to come and live in the Crawford home and pay for her board by helping with the house work. As my notes show, she said that 'Sarah and her fellow did all their sparking' at her house. She said, 'Sarah was a good girl, a good deal like Abe.' It seemed to her 'very funny,' as she expressed it, that once when she called at the Lincoln home, they didn't have anything to offer their guests, as was customary among those very hospitable pioneer people, but they brought out sweet potatoes and scraped them and offered these to their callers.

"Mrs. Crawford remembered very distinctly some of the doggerel that Abraham as a boy had written, and in the flickering candle light of the night I spent at her house, I wrote in my notebook word for word as she remembered it, some of his verses. I find that you have two of these so-called poems in the publications of your society, and you have them exactly as my notes show that they were remembered by Mrs. Crawford. There was one story that Mrs. Crawford herself didn't give me, but I got it from others, and that was about a little incident of Abraham's resentment of Josiah Crawford's requirement that he should pay for the damage done to a book which he had borrowed. Mrs. Crawford told me that her husband had loaned to Abe a book, Weems' 'Life of Washington'; that he had taken it home; that he had stuck the book in a crack between the logs of the cabin at night; that rain had come up in the night and beat through the crack and damaged the book and that Abraham came the next day to see her husband, and, as she expressed, he was the 'awfullest plagued boy she'd ever seen'; that he didn't know quite how to express himself, but he apologized and wanted to pay for the book, but that her husband had said that if he would help with the farm work for a day or two he might keep the book. That was Mrs. Crawford's version. From others I was given the information that Lincoln was really very resentful, so he wrote one of

his doggerel verses about Josiah Crawford in which he was called 'old bluenose Crawford' and that this stuck to him the rest of his days. Lincoln had that little trait as a youth. If he conceived a grievance or dislike for a person, he would get his revenge through writing something in ridicule about the person. He would read it to a few of his friends, and it would soon be repeated to others until it was known throughout the neighborhood. He had, it seems, some of the traits of average human beings.

"Mrs. Crawford's estimate of Lincoln and her recollections of him may be taken as fairly typical of what other survivors told. From some of them I couldn't get much information. They preferred to talk about things mainly interesting to themselves, such, for instance, as that the last bear hunt was in 1821 when a total of nine bears were killed; that there were many snakes in the country and 'one night Abe found a copperhead under his pillow'; the little troubles they had had; the quarrels that had never developed into fights, as in one instance when some man made a threat of striking Lincoln and Abraham looked at him very steadily and said very calmly, 'Before you strike me you better stick your head in the fire,' and the man didn't strike him.

"Mrs. Crawford said that Lincoln was 'always a peace-maker,' that he was kind, that his newly acquired stepbrothers when his father married the second time were 'fractionous and quarrelsome,' but that 'Abe was always trying to smooth out the troubles between them and keep things harmonious'; that he was not lazy but that he did like to read, and he took advantage of every opportunity to look into his books, but there weren't many books in the neighborhood. She knew of only a few. One of the strange things about this testimony is that if Lincoln found books in distant libraries, his neighbors among these survivors didn't

know definitely much about where he got them. As an interviewer one of the questions I was most persistent in asking each of these pioneers was 'what books were known to be in this neighborhood?' — and they agreed pretty well on the list, but the books were only about a half dozen in number.

"They agreed that there was a Bible, Aesop's Fables, Bunyan's 'Pilgrim's Progress,' 'Robinson Crusoe,' 'Life of Washington,' a copy of the Revised Statutes of Indiana, and one or two others. They credited Lincoln with having the extraordinary gift of remembering very clearly and definitely what he read, of being able to tell what he knew and of being able to get up on a stump and repeat quite fully any speech or sermon that he might have heard. He had that kind of unusual memory; he had a logical mind; he was able to express his thoughts well; could tell apt stories, and there was a strange light in his eyes at times. One of the outstanding qualities commented upon by all was that he was truthful and honest.

"One of the more impressible interviews that I had was with Nathaniel Grigsby, commonly known in the neighborhood as 'Uncle Natty' Grigsby — whose brother, Aaron Grigsby, married Lincoln's sister, Sarah. 'Uncle Natty' was Lincoln's most intimate boyhood friend. As 'Uncle Natty' expressed it, they 'often et hominy and fat pork together,' they often slept together and they were more nearly chums than any of the other boy friends of Lincoln. When I met him, he was quite old and feeble. This particular talk with him was while standing beside the road in Gentryville. I remember he was leaning on a cane. I asked some of the usual questions. One of these was about the books in the neighborhood. He named the same list of books Mrs. Crawford had mentioned. I noticed he was looking down at the ground, leaning on his cane, rather

chuckling to himself. I asked him why he was smiling. 'There was another book we boys got a lot of fun out of,' he answered in the indistinct voice of a feeble man.

'What was it?' I asked.

'A book of funny stories,' he replied. 'Lincoln would read it to us out in the woods on Sundays.'

'Do you remember the name of it, Uncle Natty?'

'Oh, yes; Oh, yes, mighty well.'

'What was it?'

'I understood him to say 'The King's Jester.' In my notes I simply have the words, 'N. Grigsby — King's Jester.'

'I carried the intention through the years to look up 'The King's Jester,' and some years ago the quest of the book was begun. One book expert after another confidently undertook the task and finally reported that no book of that title could be found. J. Christian Bay, of the John Crerar Library in Chicago, and previously long connected with the Congressional Library in Washington, finally undertook for me the task of finding the book and sought the assistance of other authorities in the United States and London. The search continued, with occasional reports of progress, until January, 1923, when I received a well preserved copy of 'Quin's Jests,' published in London in 1766, with an explanation from Mr. Bay that the conclusion had been reached by him and others with whom he counselled that this was really the book that they had been seeking under the mistaken title of 'The King's Jester.'

'I fear I have encroached too much upon your time. I have in this rather informal way outlined to you some of my own thought as to what should be the work that should be carried on in your inquiry, as it is very properly called, and I am confident that when that has been thoroughly done, you will then have a basis and a background for the true story of the influences that entered into the making of

Abraham Lincoln so far as any influences, educational or social, could have had a part in developing the man.

"A very large proportion of the foremost people who live in this southern Indiana region today are descendants of those pioneers who came here in that period of time when the Lincoln family lived in Indiana or were already here in 1816. If you will examine the biographies of these people that have thus far been published, you will, I believe, be much impressed, as I have been, with the fact that so many of the men whose lives have been thought worthy of preservation in printed form are descendants of those who came here in those early pioneer days.

"A boy such as Lincoln was is not influenced by the ignorant, or the stupid, or the vulgar. It is the better examples of manhood and achievement that he sees about him that influence him. It is absurd to think that Lincoln's great qualities grew out of impressions or influences prior to the arrival of the family in Indiana when he was a little more than seven years old, or that he at once became a different man after he arrived in Illinois, where for a period of six or eight years he was under great depression and it seemed to be the darker period of his life.

"I find in these southern Indiana people who are descendants of those pioneers who belonged to the Lincoln days many of the characteristics that were distinctive in Lincoln. I have been so impressed with these southern Indiana characteristics that I have been much interested in bringing with me others to visit the Indiana Lincoln country to learn their impressions of the characteristics of the people. It has seemed to me that there was something of eye-to-eye straightforwardness and fine frankness and kindness and courtesy that you meet almost unfailingly in these people of the old Warrick region, who are descendants of the pioneer settlers in that part of the State where the Lincolns lived, that you don't find so commonly elsewhere.

They are the homely, unpretentious qualities of native honesty and kindliness that were characteristics of Lincoln. It was from this kind of environment that Abraham Lincoln came and from it he rose to recognition as the greatest man in history since the coming of the Messiah. To you belongs the task of great honor in gathering all information that you can find bearing upon the life of this greatest of all men in modern history, who, while developing from boyhood into manhood, lived here in your part of the world among your ancestors."

LINCOLN'S BOYHOOD FRIENDS

In discussing Lincoln's Indiana years with a friend, the suggestion was made that it would be so interesting if one could see pictures of those Indiana friends and neighbors of the Lincolns. It seemed improbable, however, that there would be many pictures in existence of those early settlers. The thought grew, however, when I began to talk to the descendants of the Lincoln neighbors in Spencer County, and found there were some old paintings and daguerreotypes which had been preserved all these many years.

Those grandchildren and great grandchildren were kind and lent to me the old likenesses of their ancestors, so that now I own a valuable collection of photographic copies of the Lincolns' neighbors in Indiana.

What a story these pictures tell of the type of pioneers who came to this Indiana wilderness to build their homes and help to found a state; plain, sturdy, upright, God-fearing men and women they look to be, some of them highly educated and cultured, worthy builders of our great state.

First among these pictures, let us look at the daughter of Daniel Grass, Spencer County's second landowner and settler, also a member of the Constitutional Convention. There is no likeness of Daniel Grass in existence, but this dignified intelligent looking woman, Elizabeth Grass Great-house, is an excellent representative of such a well known family.

Then there is Honorable John Proctor, one of Spencer County's best educated pioneer men, a graduate of Harvard and a cultured gentleman.

There is Judge John Graham and his wife. Judge Graham was a brilliant lawyer in that day, an intimate friend

of Daniel Boone; and his picture shows him holding the gun given to him by Daniel Boone. Judge Graham's brother attended the wedding of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks in Kentucky, so the Graham and Lincoln families were friends before they came to Indiana.

Here is the quaint picture of James Grigsby, brother of Aaron Grigsby, who married Sarah Lincoln, also a picture of Lydia Grigsby Smith, sister-in-law of Sarah Lincoln Grigsby, and her husband, Benjamin Smith.

Thomas Pindal Britton, an educated settler who came from Virginia in an early day, and Mr. and Mrs. Josiah Crawford. Josiah Crawford employed Abe on his farm and loaned him books to read, including Weems' "Life of Washington." Josiah's sister married Colonel Bill Barker, and here are their interesting photographs. Colonel Barker's sister married Reuben Grigsby, Sr., so all these persons were friends of the Lincolns.

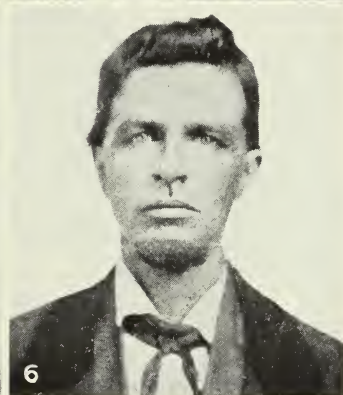
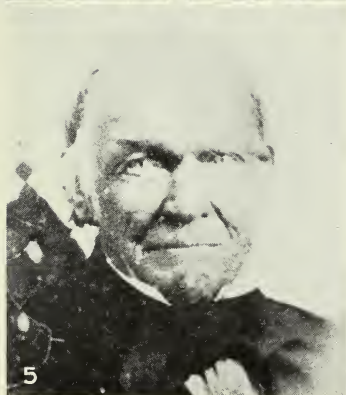
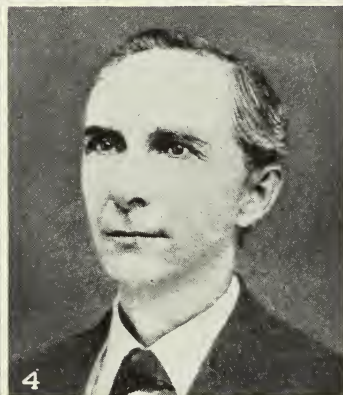
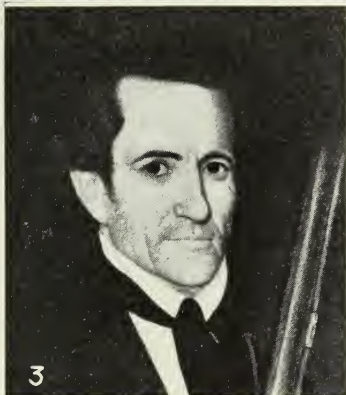
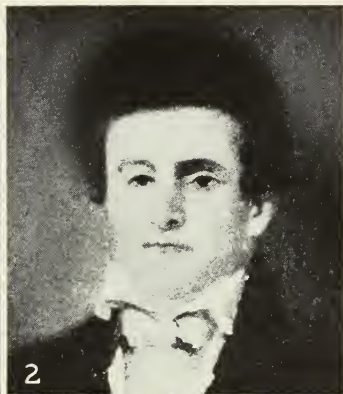
Judge Lemuel Quincy DeBruler was a notable figure in southern Indiana, and his home near the present town of Jasper was not far from that of the Lincolns. Years later, when Lincoln was President, Judge DeBruler visited him at the White House.

Now, let us look into the faces of Judge John Pitcher and his wife, Amanda Cissna Pitcher. The portraits from which these copies were made were painted at the time the Pitchers lived in Rockport, and are dim with age. Amanda Cissna Pitcher was the daughter of Dr. S. Cissna, Spencer County's first physician, who had come to Indiana with the George Rogers Clark expedition.

Here is a picture of Alfred Lamar, son of Uriah Lamar, first Justice of the Peace in Spencer County, and Captain Alfred Myler. Alfred Lamar was a boyhood friend of Lincoln's, as was Joseph Richardson, known as a schoolmate in the log-cabin school that Lincoln attended.

The Gentrys, Honorable James Gentry and Joseph Gen-

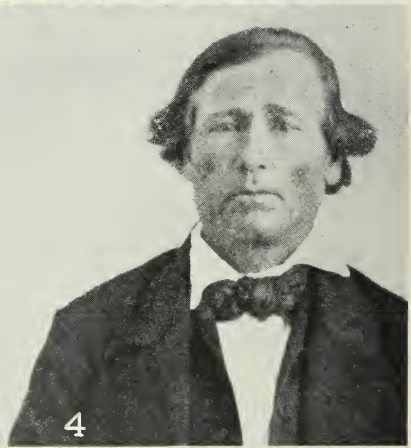
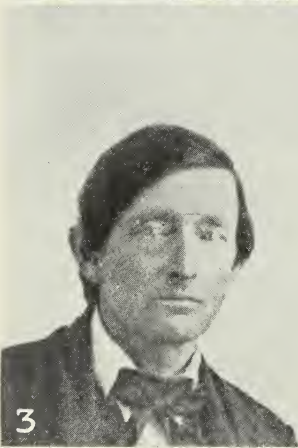
Plate 9



1. MR. AND MRS. DAVID
TURNHAM
2. THOMAS PINDAL BRITTON
The author's grandfather

3. JUDGE JOHN GRAHAM
4. JUDGE LEMUEL QUINCY
DEBRULER
5. HON. JOHN PROCTOR
6. COLONEL G. R. KELLAMS

Plate 10



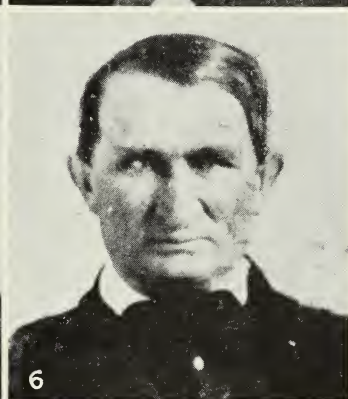
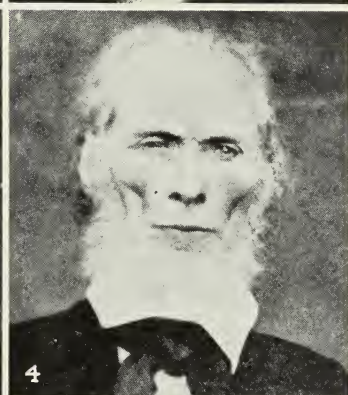
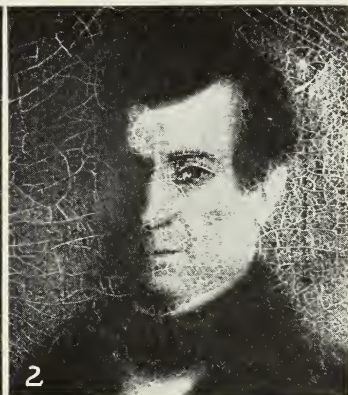
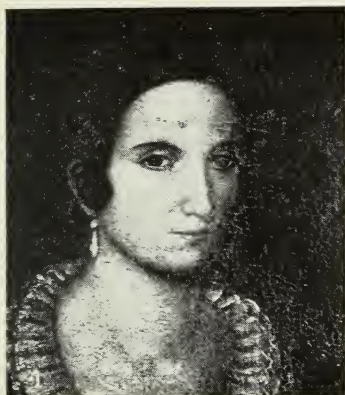
1. JAMES GRIGSBY

3. ALFRED LAMAR

4. CAPTAIN ALFRED MYLER

2. MR. AND MRS. ALLEN BROONER
Mr. Brooner located the grave of Nancy
Hanks Lincoln when the Studebaker mark-
er was erected in 1879

Plate 11



1. AMANDA CISSNA PITCHER

2. JUDGE JOHN PITCHER

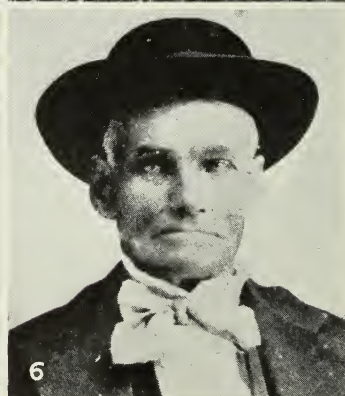
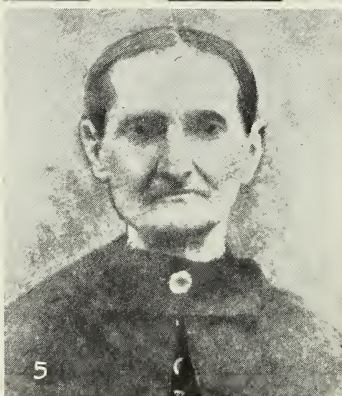
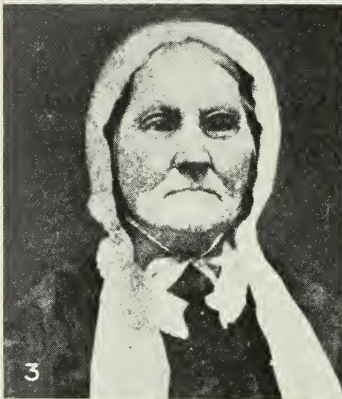
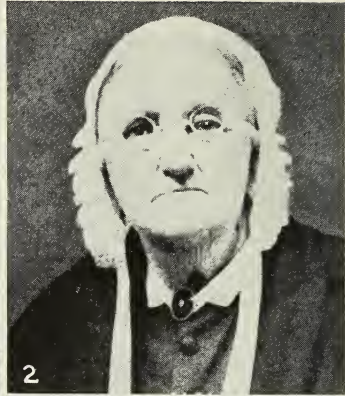
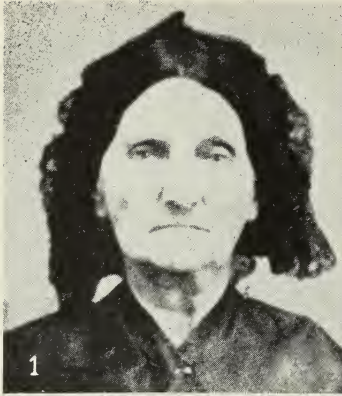
3. MRS. BILL BARKER

A sister of Josiah Crawford

4. COL. BILL BARKER

5. MRS. JOSIAH CRAWFORD

6. JOSIAH CRAWFORD



- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. MRS. JOHN GRAHAM | 4. ELIZABETH GRASS HAMMOND |
| 2. NANCY MONTGOMERY
JOHNSTON | Wife of Samuel Hammond; Abe Lin-
coln tried to go with her before her
marriage |
| 3. ELIZABETH GRASS
GREATHOUSE | 5. LYDIA GRIGSBY SMITH |
| | 6. BENJAMIN SMITH |

try, were boyhood friends. It was Joseph who helped make the rude coffin in which Nancy Hanks Lincoln was buried, and who pulled the sled upon which the body was taken to its last resting place.

James Hammond was a prominent citizen whom Lincoln knew as a boy. His father located in Spencer County in 1809.

The picture of Mrs. Samuel Hammond is shown here. Her maiden name was Elizabeth Wood. Hammond Township was named for her husband, Samuel Hammond. When she still was a girl, Abe Lincoln wanted to go with her, but she would not accept his attentions because he was so ugly and awkward.

Colonel William Jones was one of Spencer County's well known men in pioneer days and a life long friend of Lincoln. It was in his store that Lincoln served as a clerk. In 1844, when Lincoln returned to Spencer County as a Clay elector, he visited in the home of Colonel Jones.

John H. Huffman was a prominent man, and his father, George Huffman, engaged in the milling business in 1816.

Nancy Montgomery Johnston was a pioneer woman whom every one knew, and her picture interests one as does the one of Colonel G. R. Kellams who was born on a farm near the Lincoln home.

The pictures of Mr. and Mrs. David Turnham are most valuable to our Inquiry, as David Turnham loaned Abe Lincoln the first law book he ever read, "Revised Statutes of Indiana 1824."

Mr. and Mrs. Allen Brooner were pioneer friends and neighbors of Lincoln. Mr. Brooner located the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln when the Studebaker marker was erected in 1879. His mother was interred in the grave next to the one where Nancy Hanks Lincoln lies buried.

So, the thirty-one persons pictured here were citizens of Spencer County between 1816-1830.

Here, too, is a picture of the Lincoln Spencer County home taken a few days after Lincoln was assassinated. This picture and the one used as a frontispiece were given me by Mr. O. V. Brown of Dale, Indiana, who has a rare collection of things pertaining to Lincoln's life in Spencer County. We have seen some pictures of the cabin showing a porch. I quote here a letter of Mr. Brown's in which he explains the possibility that there might have been a porch at some time.

"December 14, 1937

"DEAR MRS. EHRMANN:

"I am sending you some pictures today, showing the old Abraham Lincoln Home in Spencer County, Indiana. This picture was taken a few days after Lincoln was assassinated, and has a group of three men and three women. If you will notice this picture closely, you can see upper part of the cabin is shaded and the lower part is in the bright sun light. This makes me believe there was a narrow porch as shown on other pictures. You can also see the logs extending out at either end to support this porch. This shows very plain on the end next to the chimney. The smudge of light was no doubt caused by the photographer while retouching the negative to make the flag show more plainly. Wind was blowing.

"The light one horse wagon was the only one in Dale at that time and was used to haul passengers and was also used for the Dale hearse.

"The names of the six people from Dale are as follows:

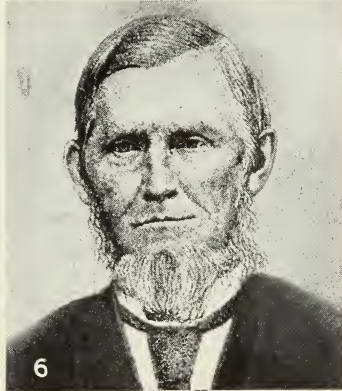
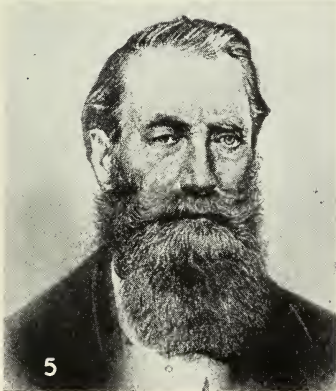
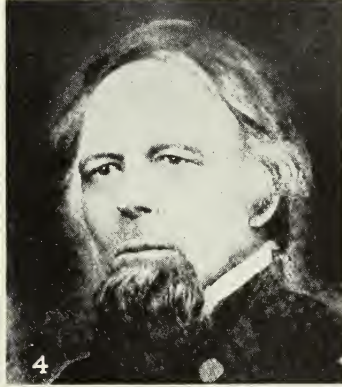
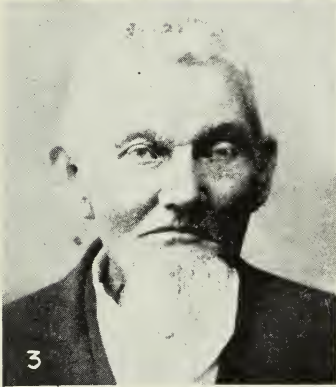
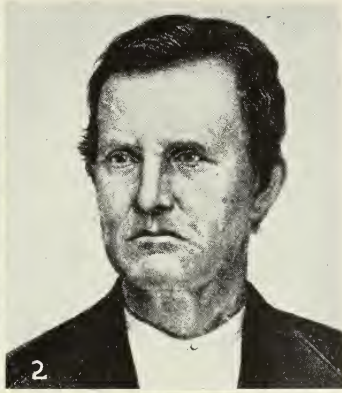
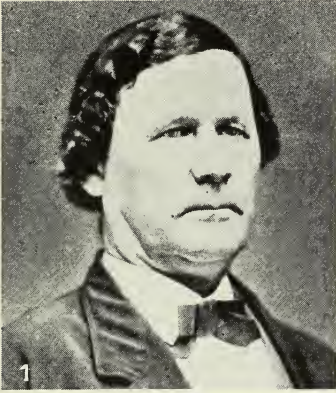
Rear row — No. 1. Mr. Kelsey, the man with heavy beard,
cane in hand, harness maker.

No. 2. Mr. George Medcalf.

No. 3. Mr. Sanders, school teacher, under
flag.

Front row — No. 4. Mrs. Clara Kelsey Ball, the lady with
a hat.

Plate 13



1. JOSEPH RICHARDSON
2. JAMES GENTRY
3. JOSEPH GENTRY

4. COLONEL WILLIAM JONES
5. JOHN H. HUFFMAN
6. JAMES HAMMOND

Plate 14



Courtesy O. V. Brown

Picture of the Lincoln home in Spencer County, taken a few days
after Lincoln was assassinated

No. 5. Siss or Evelen Miller, in center.

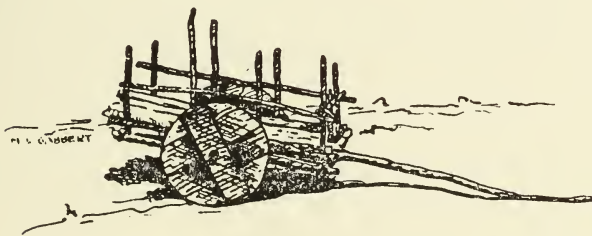
No. 6. Mrs. Kelsey, on end of row next to wagon.

"The other picture of the Lincoln Cabin I have showing the rail splitters was taken after this one. This picture shows, I think, seven people: No. 1 barely showing at edge of picture; No. 2, George Medcalf; No. 3, Porter Haines with fence rail; No. 4, Dick Jones, with maul; No. 5, No. 6 and No. 7 not known. These people, I believe, were also all from Dale.

"Sincerely,

"O. V. BROWN."

Looking backward to those years from 1816 to 1830 we realize that Lincoln's fourteen formative years lived in Indiana were spent in an environment which must have left its mark on the man who, as a boy, observed, read and pondered on things far beyond his years.



HE KNEW LINCOLN'S NEIGHBORS

Rev. J. Edward Murr, D.D., a well known Methodist minister of Indiana, has lived near the scenes of Lincoln's youth and has known intimately many of their friends and neighbors. Rev. Murr has written numerous articles on Lincoln's Indiana years and has made addresses before our Southwestern Indiana Historical Society.

The following interesting story of his contacts with Lincoln's neighbors was written for this book.

Within the compass of such a brief treatment as is here contemplated, it is not at all possible to do more than merely outline some outstanding things characterizing Lincoln's formative career in Spencer County, Indiana.

In justification for venturing to make some slight contribution concerning the early years of Lincoln's life, I may state that I was born and reared in the general neighborhood where Josiah Lincoln, an older brother of the president's father (who was the first of the Lincolns to quit the state of Kentucky), resided. This location was in Harrison County, Indiana, not far from Corydon, then the capital of the state.

I personally knew all of the older Lincolns, descendants of Josiah, and thus early obtained more or less general information relative to the Lincoln family and Thomas Lincoln and his family in particular.

In the year 1812 Thomas Lincoln paid a visit to his brother Josiah who, as here stated, lived near my forbears. During this visit Thomas, the father of the future president, disclosed his purpose to quit Kentucky for some two or three reasons but chiefly on account of the presence of slavery, and thus seek a home in Indiana.

It was but natural that his brother Josiah should be disposed to urge upon Thomas the advisability of making choice of a location near himself. This suggestion was at the first given serious consideration, but subsequent events, quite small in and of themselves, nevertheless eventually proved determining in favor of Spencer County.

The unusual character of the pioneer impedimenta possessed by Thomas Lincoln together with his familiarity with the Ohio and his consequent ability (due to flatboat experiences that enabled him to manage well upon water) caused him to readily foresee that he could transport his household and other effects to the mouth of Anderson Creek, near the Troy landing some fifteen miles from his contemplated destination, which was in the interior of the Indiana wilderness at a point near what has long been known as Gentryville.

The manner and occasion of this choice of location was due to the representations and importunities of a former Kentucky friend and neighbor, a Mr. Carter, who at that time resided at Gentryville and for whom the township in which Gentryville is located was named.

Lincoln's journey by way of Salt River and the Ohio must not be confused with the subsequent overland trek that brought his family, consisting of his wife, Nancy Hanks, his daughter, Sarah, and Abraham, to Indiana.

With no purpose in this connection to make more than a mere passing reference to the much discussed road taken, yet I may observe that few well informed Hoosier citizens of our day allow that the Lincolns crossed the Ohio at Cloverport, Kentucky, and certainly not one of the old neighbors of the Lincolns believed that the crossing was at Cloverport.

I began my "Lincoln Inquiry" in 1892, and later by reason of a residence for some years in the more immediate proximity of Gentryville, I took occasion to interview many of

the boyhood and girlhood associates of Lincoln as well as the sons and daughters of these pioneers.

I was a visitor in their homes and had some of them as guests in my home. It chanced that I officiated at the funerals of certain early associates of the future president.

Not only did I have parishioners and neighbors who personally knew Lincoln as a youth, but likewise they well knew all of the older men and women who were neighbors to Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks.

As illustrative I had one parishioner, William Forsythe, who was a native of Troy and who often joined the "gang" that was much accustomed to go down to the mouth of Anderson Creek to listen to the tall ferryman, Abraham Lincoln, spin his yarns. Although my discovery through William Forsythe and Jefferson Ray, Jr. that Lincoln made his first flatboat journey down the Ohio and Mississippi as far as Memphis, has received no credence and has been disallowed, nevertheless I have the best of reasons for believing this to be true. Lincoln cultivated a field of tobacco at Maxville during his ferry boat days and, desiring to ship this to a southern market, he bargained with Jefferson Ray, Sr. who was a riverman and loading a boat for Memphis. Lincoln took the bow oar and thus worked his passage as well as disposing of his tobacco. This is important merely in thus evidencing the fact that Lincoln had by so much an earlier knowledge of slavery than has been supposed.

Many of these early associates of Lincoln went to school with him, engaged in the usual pioneer games with him, and attended such gatherings as spelling bees, political meetings and church worship. Lincoln was a frequenter of their homes, and they in turn visited the Lincoln cabin.

It is interesting to note that the first wagon used in Spencer County was in the Troy neighborhood. This was an innovation, and the year was 1812. Soon other wagons appeared, and this fact was known to Mr. Carter and also

accounts for a suitable conveyance of the Lincolns from Troy to Gentryville.

Not only did I know those who were of the president's age but also met others who were of the years of the president's father and mother and thus intimate friends of them, being present at both the burial as well as the funeral services of Nancy Hanks. It will be remembered that her burial occurred in October, 1818, and the funeral services were held in the summer of 1819.

I may say that some of the truly informing things obtained were detailed to me by men and women far younger than Lincoln but who well remembered the older friends of Lincoln; and among these, Reuben and Betsy Ray, Charles and Matilda Hawkins, Andrew Crawford, "Blue Nose" Crawford. It should be recalled that Crawford was a pioneer doctor and dentist. His medical knowledge was merely the ability to concoct certain medicines from roots, berries and bark, and thus he was what was then called a "root and yarb" doctor. And as a dentist he never ventured anything beyond "pulling" teeth with a pair of twister forceps. One man detailed his gruesome experience in the hands of "Blue Nose" Crawford with his formidable twister forceps in the removal of an unruly tooth.

I had the good fortune to know quite well a highly reputable citizen who was often a visitor to the Grigsby home and who would over and over again describe the perpendicular sassafras ladder up which the two newly wedded couples ascended on the occasion of the famous double wedding in the Elder Grigsby's home.

I venture to give this colorful background to the Gentryville pioneer life of Lincoln's time in order to more nearly insure a follow-up interest and above all to warrant belief in the disclosures made by these pioneers who lived in Lincoln's day.

In my interviews they would relate many commonplace

incidents, and yet these loomed large in view of the many conflicting stories by the inventive irresponsibles. Want of space forbids any attempt to detail these.

It is deeply regrettable that many erroneous things are believed quite generally concerning Lincoln's formative years.

We are greatly indebted to the older writers for the many things of moment in the life of Lincoln as a public character, but it must be said that comparatively little that is trustworthy has been handed down to us concerning the events in Lincoln's life during the fourteen years spent in Spencer County, Indiana.

The older biographers contented themselves by paying hurried and ever hasty visits to Gentryville. When it is recalled that the future president spent one-fourth of his entire life in Gentryville, one is amazed at the character of the treatment given him during these formative years.

William Herndon, Lincoln's law partner at Springfield, Illinois, was the dean of all his biographers and the first to reach Gentryville, but he did not come until after Lincoln's death. Mr. Herndon spent five days in and about Lincoln's old home. Herndon came with highly preconceived convictions and opinions concerning the influences at work in the life and character of Lincoln such as only could have been wrought in Gentryville. Herndon was disposed to dismiss almost the whole of this Indiana stay as a thing of small moment, and substantially all of the older writers and eulogists after Herndon followed this lead. One may appreciate this unhappy attitude if I but state that I made my investigations at the same time that a later but pretentious biographer of Lincoln was preparing the well known four volume biography of the president. I chance to know that the author of that life of Lincoln spent one and only one night in Spencer County and interviewed but one associate of Lincoln, Mr. James Gentry of Rockport.

I deeply realize that in my efforts to make a somewhat exhaustive study of Lincoln, I labored in a field that had been gleaned over by those who were given every possible opportunity to discover all that appeared worthwhile. There is a natural readiness on the part of the reading public to pay small heed to the purported disclosures made by a Lincoln student in this late day. Notwithstanding this disposition to dismiss any (and even all) discoveries made by later writers, nevertheless I have the best of reasons for believing that these later findings are as trustworthy and as clearly verified as are the many other things long accepted as true. I here select one of, let us say a dozen stories that I obtained, just one. Again I remind any and all who may chance to read these pages, that Herndon rested his case, as lawyers say, upon such statements as were made to him by Joseph Gentry. Indeed, Herndon interviewed fewer than ten persons. Herndon was a guest in Mr. Gentry's home during his Gentryville visit. If Mr. Gentry furnished almost the whole of the Herndon matter, then I submit that one like myself may be suffered to take up where Herndon left off with Joseph Gentry. I tell the following as Mr. Gentry told it in my time, 1893.

Two Gentryville neighbors each had a flock of geese; due to the presence of the many varmints that were partial to barnyard fowls, it was necessary to house these flocks at nightfall. One neighbor missed a certain gray goose, and after looking his neighbor's flock over, he professed to find it there. Accordingly he drove it to his own home. This led to disputation, and the men made threats and counter-threats that by and by took the matter to the local court. The hearing was to be held in the local school house and county seat. Attorneys were employed. The entire countryside turned out. Lincoln and Gentry walked together to the school house. There was a capacity house, and standing room was at a premium. The litigants with many witnesses

sat on either side of the room. Suddenly and unexpectedly — to Gentry and all others — Lincoln stepped forth and began to make a speech. He was in his seventeenth year. Mr. Gentry did not profess to give the exact wording, but he did give the substance, with some attempt at Lincoln's antics, grimaces and laugh provoking mimicry.

"What means this gathering here today? I can tell you what it means. It's all on account of an o-l-d g-r-a-y g-oose! Worth about two bits!" Suddenly turning to Mr. A — and pointing. "Mr. A — , if you win your case today, what have you won? I can tell you — you will have won an o-l-d g-r-a-y goose worth about two bits!" And then suddenly wheeling about he pointed his finger at Mr. B — and said: "Mr. B — , if you should win your case today, you will get an o-l-d g-r-a-y goose worth about two bits! But (now serious) you, Mr. A — , and you, Mr. B — , whichever one wins, you will lose. For you will lose your one time friendship and put a whole community here at outs, and I urge upon you to do the manly thing — the proper thing, the right thing, by standing up here and shaking hands, make up, and have no more to do with this goose case."

Just as the lawyers and "Squire" entered the doorway of the school house, the two litigants were shaking hands. Lincoln had won his first case. This was Lincoln's first public effort at speech making, although prior to that time he was much accustomed to repeat sermons and political speeches at home and wherever small groups assembled. He never failed to imitate the speaker in gesture, little peculiarities and distinguishing mannerisms otherwise.

One only has need to take the trouble of again reading Lincoln's First Inaugural Address to see the marked similarity in the method, manner and even the deep seated purpose on both occasions. The boy was father to the man. I regard this story as quite the best of all the stories of his

formative years and perhaps as good as any that has to do with his after years. If Joseph Gentry invented this story, then Gentryville is entitled to additional honor in producing two geniuses instead of one. Had Lawyer Herndon reported this incident, doubtless it would have long since occupied a very fine setting in our Lincoln lore.

The Lincolns reached Gentryville sufficiently early enough during late summer of 1816 to raise a crop of roasting ears, Irish potatoes and other garden vegetables. They spent the whole of that first winter in the now historic half-faced camp. The entire south side of this pole structure was open to the storms and winds; fronting this open side was a perpetual bonfire or log heap. The camp or cabin had a dirt floor, and in the northwest corner of this one roomed building, Abraham slept on a bear skin cushioned with leaves.

Nancy Hanks never at any time in her life publicly or privately called but one woman "Mother," and that woman was not Lucy Hanks, her rightful mother, but she did speak of and address her Aunt Betsey Sparrow as "mother." Certainly this was quite true of her during her Indiana residence in Spencer County. The old Gentryville neighbors asserted that Nancy Hanks was ever longing to see her "mother," Betsey Sparrow, and during that first winter in the half-faced camp, she sent letters to Kentucky urging her "mother" to come and live near her.

The Sparrows came to Gentryville in 1817. Soon thereafter another aunt, Nancy Hanks Hall, her husband, and their children, reached Gentryville. The three families resided upon the Lincoln farm. With the Sparrows came Dennis Hanks or Friend as he was sometimes called. Dennis Hanks was the illegitimate son of Nancy Hanks Hall and a man by the name of Friend. Her husband, William Hall, had previously married the mother of Caleb Hazel, who it will be recalled was one of Lincoln's teachers.

In October, 1818, Nancy Hanks Lincoln called upon a

very sick neighbor, a Mrs. Brooner, who resided near the Lincolns. Mrs. Brooner had that pioneer ailment known as milk sickness. Nancy Hanks likewise was taken ill with that same disease on the day following her visit to the Brooner home. Mrs. Brooner died and was buried in the same week that Nancy Hanks was buried, and the two were buried within a few feet of one another. The Rev. Allen Brooner, son of this Mrs. Brooner, was a pioneer minister. When Mr. Studebaker desired to erect the monument or marker to Nancy Hank's grave, no one save Allen Brooner, then living, could point out the grave of Mrs. Lincoln. To the curious as well as perhaps to yet others, it is interesting to know that Mr. Brooner likewise indicated the exact spot where Lincoln stood as the rude coffin holding his mother's body was being lowered. He stood at the east side of the grave. Thomas Lincoln (who was a skilled workman and possessing the best kit of tools in Spencer County) and John Hanks whip-sawed the lumber to make the coffin of Nancy Hanks. While these men were preparing the boards, little Abraham sat upon the woodpile near the Lincoln cabin and with his father's pocket knife whittled out and shaped the wooden pins that held these boards together.

Five days after the death of Nancy Hanks, her Aunt Betsey Sparrow and husband died, and they were buried near Nancy Hanks, her Aunt Betsey being placed by her side. Later William Hall and his wife, Nancy Hanks Hall, died and were buried at the feet of Nancy Hanks Lincoln and the Sparrows. Reverend Allen Brooner was yet living when I first visited Gentryville. Surely no one will have the hardihood to doubt his statements. I knew and interviewed a number of men and women who were present at the burial as well as at the funeral services of Nancy Hanks.

The poverty of the Lincolns was extreme, yet many of the eulogists and older writers as well as the later writers

Plate 15



Quiet and peaceful are the rolling fields where stood the Lincoln home

and speakers appear to go upon the supposition that only the Lincolns were poor. The truth is, save a very few of the Gentryville population, all were obliged to pass through what Lincoln himself spoke of as "pretty pinching times." I could detail a number of incidents touching upon the poverty, not to say extreme want, of the Lincolns. As illustrative of this, I personally knew and conversed with three men, boyhood associates of Lincoln, who were present at the Lincoln cabin on the morning of the departure of the Lincolns for Illinois. They were interviewed separately. They gave many interesting details. I knew one man, Wesley Hall, son of the Santa Claus tanner, who often employed both Thomas Lincoln as well as his son, Abraham, in the Tan-Bark Mill. John Johnson and Abraham Lincoln obtained one yoke of oxen from the elder Hall. This was the yoke driven by the future President. The three men described Lincoln's dress. All agreed as to moccasins, buckskin breeches, altogether too short. Lincoln was then six feet and four inches, coon skin cap and the tail hanging down his back. He carried a hickory "gad" and walked by the side of the ox team the entire distance to Illinois.

James Gentry informed me that he and Lincoln spent some considerable time on that last night making selection of "notions," such as knitting needles, pins, combs, darning needles, etc. They retired at two o'clock but were out early on that last day of the Lincolns. Abraham spent that last night in the home of the elder Gentry, who kept a village store.

There were thirteen people in that historic trek. As Lincoln reached a point in the woods immediately to the west of his mother's grave, he left the wagon and ran up the slope to have a last look at Nancy Hanks' grave. He was loath to leave. His stay was so long as to cause his father, Thomas, to call out, "Where has that boy gone?" Having been informed that he was at the grave, he straight-

way began to cry out: "Hurry along, Abe, hurry up." Presently Abraham came down the hill weeping.

Mr. Gentry informed me that somewhere after the Lincolns reached Illinois Abraham wrote him stating that the thirty dollars purchase of "notions" had netted him just thirty dollars. Lincoln had stopped at farm houses on the way and, as he put it, "sold out."

Many of the later eulogists and biographers of Lincoln have unhappily followed Herndon's lead in asserting that Lincoln was proverbially lazy. The only possible foundation for this was a statement made to Mr. Herndon by Mother Romine, who indicated that Lincoln was lazy. I knew Mother Romine, and she was a delightful personality. What she said and what she meant as to Lincoln's laziness was just this: "I think when a boy has his nose in a book all the time, he's bound to be lazy." The unschooled pioneer rarely appreciated intellectual hunger.

The religious, intellectual and social life at Gentryville was almost the same met with in nearly every frontier community, not only in Indiana but elsewhere as well.

Lincoln was a constant borrower of books and a reader of newspapers. He was given free access to a pretentious, private library near Boonville. I ascertained that the library contained classics almost exclusively, such as Shakespeare, Dean Swift, Gibbon, etc. The Allen home later obtained this collection, and I had it from the Allens at Boonville that these volumes contained marginal comment over the signature "A. Lincoln." This library was lost in a fire. Certainly there is good proof that Lincoln borrowed law books from Judge John Pitcher at Rockport as well as Squire Pate and David Turnham.

Not a few biographers and eulogists of Lincoln have widely missed the mark relative to the religious phase in his life. From Herndon, the Deist, to John Hay, there was

a disposition to attribute to him implied unbelief or at most and best a Deistic position, disallowing anything in Lincoln so much as approaching evangelical faith. Later biographers have too often followed this lead.

It is all too apparent that these earlier writers unhappily failed to note that Lincoln continued to broaden and deepen both intellectually and religiously to the very last. Beveridge caught this in a fine way and made the most of it. That Lincoln, while a resident of Salem, Illinois, yielded to the persuasions of Deism so rampant in that community, and even perhaps made excursions in the direction of unbelief is beyond dispute. The same thing could be said of many another, some of these, like Augustine, later becoming theologians of note. Gettysburg, the Second Inaugural, and the Mrs. Bixby Letter are eloquent refutations to such utterances as have been made by the liberal disciples, concerning Lincoln's religious faith.

It is a far cry from the unschooled pulpit of Lincoln's youth (Little Pigeon Creek Church) to the prophet, like utterances found in his great Second Inaugural, yet the connection is there.

Lincoln in his youth never fully accepted and later in life wholly dismissed the ultra Calvinistic teachings predominant in and about Gentryville, but he steadfastly adhered to the fundamental doctrine of the Sovereignty of God throughout the whole of his life, save perhaps at Salem, and while submissively believing that the Almighty hath His purposes, yet he repeatedly went upon his knees in prayer to God in the midst of the nation's crisis, confidently believing that Divine favor was not incompatible with man's voluntary exercise of choice, and by his own confession clearly indicated that during the whole of the night after Chancellorsville and the hours immediately preceding Gettysburg, he supplicated a throne of grace seeking

to win the covenant favor of God as evidenced by the burden of his prayer: "This is Your war, if You will stand by our boys at Gettysburg, I will stand by You." And Lincoln believing that the Almighty did in fact exercise Divine power on that field of carnage, he in turn kept his part of the covenant to the last.

Like Jacob of old, he had prior to Gettysburg covenanted with his Maker by promising the Emancipation Proclamation following success at Antietam.

The teachings of the unschooled Gentryville preachers were as seed sown in good ground, notwithstanding those teachings caused Lincoln often to make a near approach to fatalism. Many another would have gone into the abyss and this might have been true of Lincoln as his life progressed, but for yet other early influences. It is a well established fact that Lincoln's mother was possessed of a simple childlike Christian faith. Nancy Hanks lived and died in this Indiana wilderness without the benefit of the church or clergy; however, she was painstakingly devout, much given to prayer and the reading of the Bible. Aside from such well known statements handed down to us concerning the beauty of her life, we have that memorable tribute paid her by her illustrious son when he said: "All that I am and all that I ever hope to be, I owe to my angel mother."

Lincoln learned to pray at the knees of Nancy Hanks and his unusual knowledge of the Bible was quite largely attributable to her example and influence.

When Lincoln walked down Sangamon River bottom, he had left behind him his school days, his youth and his intensive study of the Bible, although he remained a reader of the Bible to the last, but just as he had learned honesty at Gentryville and later practiced its principles at Springfield and at Washington in such a manner so as to be called "Honest Abe," so in like manner he had obtained such a ready use of the Scriptures at Gentryville he often later

confounded his opponents by telling quotations memorized in his youth.*

It has been the unfailing custom of many writers and Lincoln eulogists to seek to disparage the character of Thomas Lincoln. These men and women dismiss Lincoln's father with something akin to benevolent pity, disallowing to the elder Lincoln any single ennobling trait or purpose and thus denying to him any contribution of especial moment.

When it is but recalled that Thomas Lincoln became, in the providence of God, the father of one whom millions regard as our first and greatest American, it would appear that his fame is secure. Had there been nothing else to say in favor of Thomas Lincoln to have it proclaimed through the centuries that this man was the father of the Great Emancipator, this is a great honor indeed.

The president received from his father certain qualities of mind as well as physical characteristics that were ever peculiar to the Lincolns and such as never distinguished the Hanks family. Among these may be mentioned his well known physical prowess, his coarse black, unruly hair, his dark complexion, his unusual wit and humor as well as his well known gift at story telling, his uncanny cunning, his mirth-provoking mimicry, his ready and eager disposition to take the stump or mount the platform and, above all, his proverbial honesty and truthfulness.

Lincoln was greatly indebted to his mother in many ways. His face with its deep lines, high cheek bones, rugged brow,

* If we refer to a manuscript on file in the Society's archives, entitled "Word Pictures of Pioneer Life" by Deirdré Duff Johnston, we find a story related by Colonel Fraser Jaques (later commander of the "Preacher Regiment" of Civil War fame) and at the time resident Methodist minister at Springfield. We are told the spiritual experience that came to Lincoln in the study of the minister's home and in the presence of Dr. Jaques's wife. He closes his narrative with the remark, that if he had *ever* seen a man give his soul to his Maker, Abraham Lincoln had done so, that day.

gray blue eyes, deep-set and small eyes, constituted a replica of Nancy Hanks' face. This held true even to the prominent nose and large ears.

Nancy Hanks was much given to deep melancholy, yet in common with her husband, Thomas Lincoln, she possessed marked wit and humor. In her, this was merely occasional, while in Thomas Lincoln it was perennial.

The president's melancholy was congenital. His temperament, great good nature, forgiving spirit, characterized his mother. His well known high moral standard and freedom from all of the frontier bad habits, were marked traits at Gentryville. Thomas Lincoln failed to understand his son while his mother did, and to her he clung as long as she lived; to her memory he not only publicly made acknowledgment, but her spirit and presence were with him always.

It must not be forgotten that when Lincoln drove his ox wagon to Illinois, he was then in his twenty-second year, and when he quit Kentucky for Gentryville, Indiana, he was but a mere child with only a few memories of the State of his birth. Thus while the State of Kentucky was his birthplace and Illinois was his burial place, it was the State of Indiana that moulded and fashioned him with those elemental teachings of truthfulness, sobriety and honesty, such as served him to life's close. His was an unusual career, and aside from the natural endowments of Heaven those traits of character later observed in him were to no small extent made possible by the example, training and teaching of those Spencer County Hoosier citizens at Gentryville, Indiana.

INTERVIEWING LINCOLN'S NEIGHBORS

On November 12, 1925, Miss Anna O'Flynn of Vincennes, Indiana, presented an address concerning her investigation of Lincoln's years in Spencer County. Miss O'Flynn made her first visit to Spencer County in 1895 and her second trip in 1896. One visit covered a period of several days, the other four weeks. With her permission, I quote parts of her address.

"We went down to Spencer County to get facts about Lincoln's boyhood. We had found Lincoln in Vincennes, but he was a man when there. Miss Ida M. Tarbell was then writing a 'Life of Lincoln' for the McClure Magazine. She incorporated my article in her work, or in other words she edited the manuscript I sent to the McClure Magazine. Honorable Carl Schurtz said, 'A Lieutenant Burke said he had read a review of Miss Tarbell's Life of Lincoln in which he said, 'The story of Abraham Lincoln's Boyhood in Indiana in the McClure Magazine is the most sympathetic article that has ever been written about this great hero.' I was proud to have this great man's commendation."

"You want to hear about the people with whom I talked and the stories they told me? Mrs. Nancy Taylor Volke gave me her brother's address, saying that Green B. Taylor would give me the facts concerning Abraham Lincoln working for her father and running the ferry boat. Here was where Abraham earned his first dollar by taking two men out to a steamboat. I wrote to Captain Green B. Taylor of South Dakota, received an answer and his photograph. He told me that the two boys were shelling corn to take to the mill. Abe got so much more done than he did that he

became angry and threw a corn cob and hit Abe over the eye. The scar remained on Lincoln's face until his death."

"I interviewed Mrs. Crawford who had a wardrobe made by Thomas Lincoln, Abraham's father. This was a fine piece of work, proving that Thomas Lincoln was a skillful carpenter. The wardrobe was of black walnut inlaid in white oak. Around the panels were small diamond shaped bits of white oak forming a wreath. In the center of the panels were the letters, 'J. C.' for Josiah Crawford on one door and 'E. C.' for Elizabeth Crawford on the other."

"It was Josiah Crawford who owned the 'Life of Washington' that Abe borrowed. It got wet, and Abe shucked corn to pay for it. Ah, the Crawfords were a mine of stories which I have not time to repeat."

"Locating the grave of Mrs. Lincoln was a hard problem. Mr. Brooner said he thought he could locate his mother's grave. They were side by side. Thomas Lincoln sawed down a tree, whip-sawed the boards and made his wife's coffin. That was not poor carpentry! Thomas Lincoln was a fine workman. When one sees the pieces of his workmanship, you will decide that he did excellent work."

"I interviewed Mr. Lamar. He said the first time he saw young Lincoln was when as a little boy he was riding to the mill on a horse behind his father. Lincoln was letting the horse rest from plowing and was reading a book. Lamar's father said, 'Son, look at that boy. He will make a mark in the world. He either works or reads. He never wastes a minute!'"

"I went to every city, village or hamlet in the vicinity of Lincoln City. I interviewed people in each one of these places, people who knew Abraham Lincoln as a boy. We met people that didn't seem inclined to talk to newspaper writers. This caused us to get the name of the leading person in each neighborhood. When at home we wrote to that person, to get the news from those who knew any facts.

In this way we got a very good, reliable history of his boyhood."

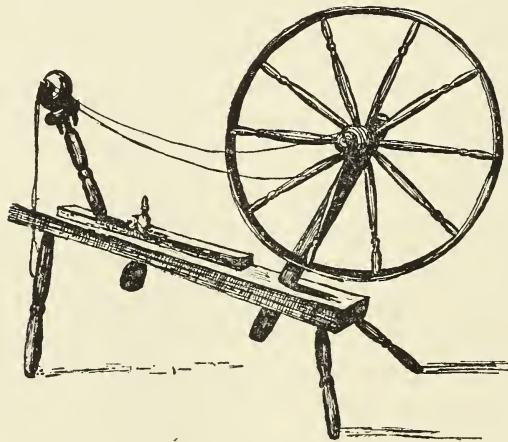
"In 1844 Abraham Lincoln made three speeches in Spencer County. Some people doubt it, but these facts were told by Mr. Brooner, Mr. James Gentry and Mr. Redmond Grigsby. They remember the speeches. One speech was made out at the Carter School where the Buffalo road crosses. Lincoln stood on the school house steps with his back to the school house and talked to all the people from the surrounding country. Many of them knew him when a boy. We were told by the old settlers that the second speech was made down in front of the harness shop one hundred fifty feet south of Jones store (locating it very closely). This time Abe talked to the neighbors and the people of the vicinity and from Gentryville. His main speech was at the Rockport Court House. I obtained a picture of that old court house, although it had been burned. I have it."

"The people I met there were like the men that we have here. Each face was different. I found the mind and soul were what I wanted. Their faces and their clothing were as varied as you find in any gathering today. Did you ever go to a country fair, or did you ever go to one of these little affairs where you get out and meet everybody? I found the aristocrat, the intelligent, and I found the unlearned. Why not? Aren't they everywhere?"

"I might be able to count a hundred of the good people to whom we talked, or to whom we wrote letters. I saw many who gave me something, and the others I saw didn't give me anything. Many a time I went home without anything at all, but still uplifted because we had met people who had nothing to say, yet were kind to us and were interested in our work. You know that meant much to us. I would have to tax my memory to give you all the names, but here is a partial list: General Veatch, Captain Green

B. Taylor, Mrs. Emma Bullock, Mrs. Mary Adams, Mrs. Ruth Huff, Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Turnham, Hon. H. B. Brooner, Capt. Lamar, C. T. Doxey, Hon. Alfred McCoy, Mr. N. S. Roberts, Capt. P. A. Bruce, Capt. Wartman, Capt. Burke, Capt. F. J. Charlton, Capt. George Riley, Ed. Royal Purcell, Editor Thomas Adams, Hon. H. W. McCoy, Mr. Studebaker, Hon. Schuyler Colfax, Hon. William English, Capt. William Jones and his son, Attorney William Jones, Mr. Raymond Grigsby, Mrs. James Gentry, Mr. Brooner, Mrs. Nancy Taylor Volke, Mr. W. M. Daniel, S. H. Burton, Mr. Frank Gahon, Miss Mary Inco. Others there are who gave me inspiration and encouragement, to them we are equally indebted."

"In the gallery of my memory there hangs magnetic pictures of southern Indiana which is sacred to the Boyhood of Abraham Lincoln, just as is the Holy Land sacred to Christ. Aye, southern Indiana will ever be the Mecca, the holy land to all patriots who love Lincoln."



PART III

LINCOLN RIDES TO ROCKPORT

In the month of October, 1844, a tall, gaunt young man of Springfield, Illinois, fastened his saddle bags securely on his horse, mounted and headed toward the east.

This young man was Abraham Lincoln, and he was going back to his boyhood home in Indiana, his first visit since he left there in 1830. Much had happened in these fourteen years, and now as a Clay elector he was going among the old friends as an orator in behalf of Henry Clay.

From his first entrance into political life, Lincoln recognized Henry Clay as his leader and instructor in statesmanship. His reverence and attachment for the great Kentuckian had been unlimited and enthusiastic, and so he was glad to take a leading position in canvassing the State of Illinois as an elector, especially glad of the opportunity to return to southern Indiana, where he would be sure to attract large audiences among the friends and neighbors of his youth.

It would be a several days' journey should he go direct to the old home in Spencer County, but other places in Indiana were to be visited first, thus saving for the last the visit to the old home.

Letters were few and far between in those pioneer days, and Lincoln had seldom heard from the old neighbors, and so he thrilled at the thought of seeing and talking with those whom he had known years ago.

There were four men in particular whom he longed to see again: Allen Gentry, living at the county seat of Rockport, with whom he had made his first flatboat trip to New Orleans; Judge John Pitcher, noted lawyer, also of Rockport,

who had loaned him books in that far away time of his boyhood; Colonel William Jones of Jonesboro, friend and employer; and Josiah Crawford, near neighbor to the Lincolns, where he and his sister, Sarah, had both worked at various times.

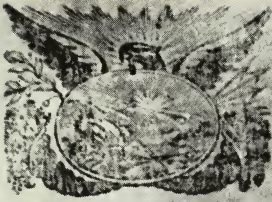
There was to be a visit made to the grave of his mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, and to that of his sister, Sarah Lincoln Grigsby, both of whom had died and been buried in the days of the Indiana residence.

Abraham Lincoln was now well established in his profession as lawyer, and had four times in succession been elected to the legislature of Illinois. Two years before this date of his first visit back to the Indiana home he had been married to Mary Todd, so there would be many things to discuss with Pitcher, Gentry, Crawford and Colonel Jones.

The speech making in Indiana, and the slow travel by horseback, took several weeks before he reached Spencer County. He delivered addresses at Bruceville, Vincennes, Washington, Boonville and other points in southern Indiana before his arrival in Gentryville and Rockport. He was a forceful speaker and had always at hand a fund of anecdotes and illustrations pleasing to all classes of hearers.

This campaign had the effect of establishing Mr. Lincoln's reputation as a political orator, and from this time forward he was widely known as one of the soundest and most effective of whig champions in the west.

In Spencer County are two old newspapers which tell the story of the visits and speech at Rockport, where he met his former friends and electioneered for Clay. One of these newspapers was *The Herald* of Friday, November 1, 1844, with James C. Veatch as editor. The only surviving copy (so far as I know) of this November 1, 1844, *Herald* is the property of Charles Baker, editor of the Grandview *Monitor*, and was photographed by Mr. George Honig, well known sculptor of Rockport and Evansville.



FOR PRESIDENT.
HENRY CLAY.
 — { 0000000 } —
 FOR VICE-PRESIDENT:
T. FRELINGHUYSEN.

For State Electors.

Henry S Lane, of Montgomery;
 Joseph G Marshall, of Jefferson.

District Electors.

1. John A. Marshall, of Warren.
2. John A. Marshall, of Warren.
3. John A. Marshall, of Franklin.
4. Samuel W. Parker, of Fayette.
5. Hugh O'Neal, of Marion.
6. George G. Dunn, of Lawrence.
7. Richard W. Thompson, of Vigo.
8. Albert L. Holmes, of Carroll.
9. Horace P. Biddle, of Cass.
10. Lewis G. Thompson, of Allen.

THE HERALD.

JAMES C. VEATCH, EDITOR.

ROCKFORD, ILL.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1844.

The great conflict is drawing to a close: and on Monday next the great question, "who shall be the next President—Henry Clay or J. K. Polk?" is to be decided. The merits of these men have been presented repeatedly; and the principles which each advocate are well

that no fraudulent votes are polled—be active, and persevere peace and order at the ballot boxes.

Mr. Lincoln, of Springfield, Ill., addressed a large and respectable audience at the court house on Wednesday evening last, upon the whig policy. His main argument was directed in pointing out the advantages of a Protective Tariff. He handled that subject in a manner that done honor to himself and the whig cause. Other subjects were investigated in a like manner.—His speech was plain, argumentative and of an hour's duration.—When he closed, Mr. J. Pitcher arose and delivered a speech in his forcible and powerful manner.—He exhibited the democratic policies in an unenviable light, at least we thought so.

Through the politeness of Mr. Wicks, of the Fawn, we are in possession of late Louisville papers, from which gather several important items of news.

The Harrisburg Union gives the official vote of every county in the State of Pennsylvania, as received at the office of the Secretary of State, showing the following result:

Shank, loco	160,403
Markle, whig	155,114
Locofoco majority	4,289

No return was made from the sixth ward of the northern liberties which would add about one hundred to this majority. The vote for Lemoyne, the Abolition candidate, is not given, but said to be over five thousand.

PENNSYLVANIA.—Many locofoco said, before the election, that unless SHANK carried Pennsylvania by 10,000 majority, there was no hope of its

we best find irregularities unavoidable. had for pro been cut off consequence. But now, as Packet Fawn Henderson at procure paper that we shall ogies for the f

IMPORTANT St Louis New tion in Misc lature of Lev majority of Clayke by 5 r votes; one f one from Pe Carroll by two viess by five bers from Ho by 10 votes. Audrian, Grui majorities. was elected b and the Senat ily of eight vo Benton by his

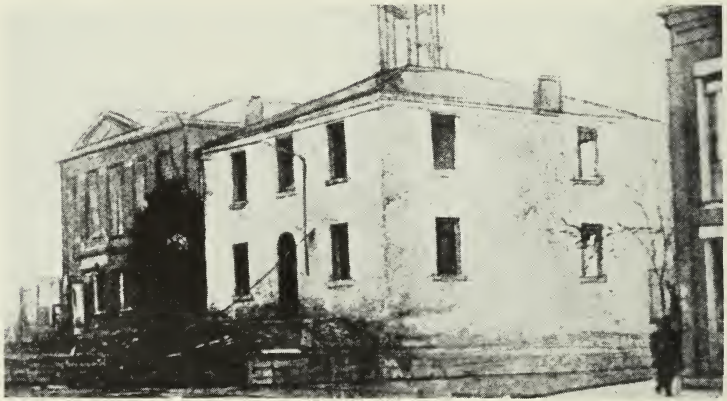
Laboring in etc; it is a wa the arguments approach the I next Monday. now before the didates for t that one is a f borer; the oth him. That fr opponent is Ja

LET THE There is no cl which is so m tive Tariff as Locofoco pres or to excite a tive tariff, by to benefit the

Photographic copy of newspaper which tells of Lincoln's visit to Rockport in 1844



The old inn in Rockport where Lincoln was a guest in 1844



The Spencer County Court House where he made a speech



The old boat landing on the Ohio at Rockport where Lincoln left on his first flatboat trip to New Orleans

A copy is here reproduced of that portion of the paper containing the mention of the Lincoln address. We read in this old newspaper the following account of the speech made in the old court house October 30, 1844.

"Mr. Lincoln of Springfield, Illinois, addressed a large and respectable audience at the Court House on Wednesday evening last upon the Whig policy. His main argument was directed in pointing out the advantages of Protective Tariff. He handled that subject in a manner that did honor to himself and the Whig cause. Other subjects were investigated in a like manner. His speech was plain, argumentative and of an hour's duration.

"When he closed Mr. John Pitcher arose and delivered a speech in his forcible and powerful manner. He exhibited the democratic policies in an unenviable light, at least we thought so."

The other newspaper account of his visit was printed years later in the *Rockport Journal* of February 12, 1904, and with John Chewning, editor. Following is the article which had the picture above it of the old inn where Lincoln was a guest:

"In 1844, when Lincoln was a Clay elector, he made a trip back to Spencer County, his old home, the first trip since he left it for Illinois, fourteen years before.

"Among the speeches he delivered while here in the interest of the Whig candidate was one in the Court House of Rockport.

"The above picture shows the tavern where he stopped and a building yet standing in pretty good condition. For about the last fifty years, it has been known as the Sargent House owned by that family.

"Squire J. L. Stewart, one of our oldest residents, who has married hundreds of Kentucky runaway couples, was an errand boy at the above tavern when Lincoln stayed there and remembers the visit well, he then being about fourteen

years old. Speaking this week of the memory he said: 'It was along in the early fall when Lincoln came to town riding through from Illinois horseback, stopping in the upper part of the county before reaching Rockport. I remember very well my first sight of him; he was so gangling, tall and awkward. He had on a brownish suit of clothes and an old fashioned cap. Of course, he hadn't gotten famous then but attracted attention.

" 'The afternoon of the day he was here, he spoke in the Court House that stood in the corner of the yard where the cannon rests. There was a good sized crowd to hear him, and he spoke on Protection. I was just a boy but went along with the rest of the people. The next day he rode away.' "

The old tavern spoken of by Squire Stewart is still standing in this year of 1938, and it was built by Daniel Brown in 1836, one hundred 2 years ago. Many visitors to Rockport go to see the quaint old place and try to visualize Lincoln as he looked when a guest there in 1844. Squire Stewart's description of his looks and clothes makes a vivid picture of this young man who later was to be the greatest man of all time in our country's history.

Lincoln's stay in Spencer County and the visits with all the old friends must have been both satisfactory and yet sad because it was after his return to Illinois that he wrote the poem concerning this trip:

"My childhood's home I see again,
And sadden with the view;
And still as memory crowds my brain,
There's pleasure in it, too.

"O, Memory! Thou midway world,
'Twixt earth and paradise,
Where things decayed and loved ones lost,
In dreamy shadows rise.

“And, freed from all that’s earthly, vile,
Seem hallowed, pure and bright,
Like scenes in some enchanted isle,
All bathed in liquid light.

“As dusky mountains please the eye,
When twilight chases day;
As bugle notes that, passing by,
In distance die away;

“As leaving some grand waterfall,
We, lingering, list its roar;
So memory will hallow all
We’ve known, but know no more.

“Near twenty years have passed away,
Since here I bid farewell
To woods and fields, and scenes of play,
And playmates loved so well;

“Where many were, but few remain,
Of old, familiar things;
But seeing them to mind again
The lost and absent brings.

“The friends I left that parting day,
How changed! as time has sped
Young childhood grown, strong manhood gray,
And half of all are dead.

“I hear the loud survivors tell
How naught from death could save,
Till every sound appears a knell,
And every spot a grave.

“I range the fields with pensive tread,
And pace the hollow rooms,
And feel (companions of the dead),
I’m living in the tombs.”

Indiana people like to think of him as he was when a boy here; and also as he looked in 1844, riding into town horseback, and after the visit among the old friends riding away.

We feel sure there was a visit to the home of Allen Gentry, near the old flatboat landing, and together they must have walked there and reminisced concerning that trip of 1828.

Louis Gentry, grandson of Allen Gentry, pointed out to me the exact spot where his father told him the Gentry flatboat was loaded when Lincoln was Gentry's helper.

Could the old rocks talk, that tower so high near this spot, what a tale of interest would we hear of the hours Lincoln worked nearby as a boy of nineteen years.

DOWN IN THE LINCOLN COUNTRY OF INDIANA

Come take a trip with me down in the Lincoln country of southern Indiana. Over the good roads of today, let us follow the wilderness trails that the barefooted Abraham traveled so long ago.

Spencer County, Indiana, is a place of rolling hills, wooded valleys, winding Ohio River and beautiful scenery. Here in this peaceful rural community are many historic spots associated with the life of Abraham Lincoln, and people come from great distances to visit these places connected with the life of this great man.

The Nancy Hanks Lincoln Memorial Park is where the mother of Lincoln lies buried, and where stood the cabin home of this boy for the formative years of his life, from seven to twenty-one.

In nearby Little Pigeon Cemetery rests the body of his sister, Sarah Lincoln Grigsby, the beloved playmate of his childhood. In this cemetery stood the old log church where the Lincoln family worshiped.

Anderson Creek holds memories of the boy Lincoln, when he was a ferry boat helper, employed by a man named Taylor.

At Rockport, county seat of Spencer, is the old boat landing from which he left on his first flatboat trip to New Orleans with Allen Gentry.

In the Rockport City Park is the Lincoln Pioneer Village, an unique memorial to the memory of Lincoln's fourteen years in Spencer County and to his pioneer neighbors and friends. It was designed and built by Mr. George Honig, artist and sculptor, under the direction of the Spencer County Historical Society.

The Inn at Rockport, in which he was a guest when he returned to his old home in 1844 as a Clay elector, is still standing, as is the old building where he came as a barefoot boy to borrow books from the noted lawyer, John Pitcher.

Across the street is the site of the old time court house where he made his 1844 speech before the friends of his youth.

Long ago history wrote the record of this man's birth in Kentucky, his life in Illinois, and tomes have been written concerning his public life and the mystery of his greatness.

One part of his life, however, has been lightly touched, those years when as a boy he roamed these hills and valleys in Indiana, or worked on the banks of the majestic Ohio, the river that played an important part in the formative years of his life.

It has ever seemed a strange fact that most historians, searching for information concerning this man, never deemed it of enough importance to investigate the Indiana years in regard to the forming of character, the possible birth of ambition, or interest in book knowledge, yet most people agree that the formative years in a child's life are from seven to twenty-one and that in those years the influences surrounding a child will leave indelible impressions.

So, let us brush the dust of over a century from history's pages and look searchingly into those childhood years.

As a boy of seven, we see him round-eyed with wonder as he ferries the Ohio River coming with his parents to the new home in Indiana. The river must have seemed an ocean to his childish eyes. When the family finally step on shore, we see Nancy, the mother, leading Abraham and Sarah to one side where, kneeling, she offers up a prayer of thankfulness for their safe arrival in the Indiana wilderness. Thus, at this early age the religious atmosphere surrounds him. Later we see the family settled in the log cabin that Thomas Lincoln built for his family.

We visualize all those pioneer hardships, the lessons of courage and endurance that such a life must necessarily teach a child. Here Abraham Lincoln lived those early years, and here he suffered his first great sorrow when his beloved mother died and was buried on a nearby hillside. We picture his poignant grief over the loss of the one who had loved him so devotedly. The stepmother's coming, a year later, meant much to the growing boy and his sister, Sarah. Sarah Bush Lincoln liked the homely, awkward stepson and gave him a mother's devotion.

Lincoln's school days were few in Indiana, and yet it was in a rude log cabin that one teacher, at least (Andrew Crawford), taught the boy manners as well as the three R's. Living on surrounding farms near the Lincolns were sturdy pioneers — men and women — who were upstanding and worthwhile examples to follow. Lincoln, the boy, must have absorbed much information and knowledge from the observation of his neighbors. He, early in his teens, grew in stature until he was over six feet in height, strong of arm and renowned in the surrounding country as a wrestler.

At Anderson Creek, on the Ohio, and not far from the Lincoln home, James Taylor owned and operated a ferry and Lincoln became his helper. What a new world of thought must have opened to this backwood's boy as he met the travelers of that day who doubtless told him many interesting and strange things of the cities from whence they came.

Then there is the site of the Jones store, at the place called Jonesboro, where Abe clerked as a boy. The brick residence of Colonel Jones is still standing about one-half mile west of Gentryville. The present towns of Gentryville and Lincoln City were the two early settlements best known to the Lincoln family.

Any one visiting all these spots should see also the unusual town of Santa Claus and the German Camp Ground,

for it is a part of the Lincoln Country, and when Lincoln returned in 1844 as a Clay elector, he made one of his speeches in front of a school house that stood where the town of Santa Claus is now located.

The Hammond tannery site near Grandview was the place where Lincoln often went as a boy, and in Grandview there stands a marker showing the old trail that was often traveled by the Lincolns. Each place mentioned here is now a sacred shrine to the memory of Lincoln's boyhood.

WHERE LINCOLN'S MOTHER LIES BURIED

The grave of Lincoln's mother had remained unmarked throughout the years until long after Lincoln's assassination.

In the year 1879, on November 27, Peter E. Studebaker of South Bend, Indiana, had a well designed marble headstone with appropriate inscription placed at her grave.

Mr. Alfred Yates of Rockport, Indiana, whom I knew well, made this marker, and he told me of the gathering that attended this dedication and also of the years that followed when he made yearly trips to the grave to cut the weeds and clean the marker.

After the marker was placed at the grave, General James C. Veatch of Rockport started a subscription among Spencer County citizens to raise funds for an iron fence to enclose the grave, and on May 11, 1880, it was erected.

The names of those who gave to this worthy cause were given to me by Miss Pet Enlow, granddaughter of General Veatch, who had preserved the General's valuable papers throughout the years. She also gave to me a copy of the statement presented to the Board of Commissioners of Spencer County, Indiana, which went into their files.

This statement is here presented in full, as follows:

"TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
SPENCER COUNTY, INDIANA:

"At the June term 1880, the undersigned ask leave to make the following statement:

"On the 25th day of July, 1879, Mr. P. E. Studebaker, the well known Carriage Manufacturer of South Bend, Indiana, saw an editorial paragraph in the Tribune of that city to the effect that the grave of Mrs. Nancy Lincoln the

mother of President Lincoln, was left unmarked and uncared for in the forest near Lincoln City in this County.

"He immediately wrote to Mr. L. S. Gilkey, Postmaster at Rockport, to know if this statement was true, and receiving an answer that it was substantially correct he sent his check for fifty dollars to Mr. Gilkey asking him to procure the best tombstone that could be obtained for that sum and to have it set up at her grave.

"Mr. L. S. Gilkey contracted with Alfred H. Yates of Rockport for a very neat marble slab with appropriate inscription and on the 27th day of November, 1879, it was put up at the grave in the presence of a large number of people assembled to witness this act of honoring the memory of the dead.

"A few days before this time Mr. R. T. Kercheval wrote to Henry Lewis of Cincinnati, Ohio, Trustee of the owners of the land at Lincoln City asking him to make a donation of a small plat of ground where the grave is situated.

"Mr. Lewis responded generously offering to give half an acre of the land embracing said grave.

"On the day the tombstone was erected Mr. W. W. Wells, County Surveyor, kindly gave his services in measuring and marking off the half acre of ground and on the..... day of1879, Mr. Henry Lewis as trustee for.....Conveyed to John A. Huffman, David F. Axton and John M. Gwaltney, as a Board of Commissioners of Spencer County and to their successors in office the said half acre of land to be held by them in trust for the whole people of the United States for the purpose mentioned in said deed.

"Said deed is recorded in the record of Deeds of Spencer County Book, Page.....and is now shown to the Court.

"On the same day the tombstone was erected James C. Veatch started a subscription of \$1.00 each to procure an

Plate 18



Courtesy C. Lauron Hooper, Chicago
Entrance to Nancy Hanks Lincoln Park



Marker erected where the home of the Lincolns once stood.
Now removed to Trail of Rocks



Courtesy C. Lauron Hooper
Present memorial at site of log cabin home of the Lincolns,
1816-1830

Plate 19



Home of Col. William Jones in Spencer County still standing. Abe was employed as a clerk in the Jones store



Grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, Lincoln City, Indiana

iron fence to inclose said grave and obtained for that purpose \$50.00.

"He contracted with S. W. Stocking of Rockport, Agent of the Manufacturers of the Champion Iron Fence of Kenton, Ohio, for 36 feet of ornamental Iron Fence for the sum of \$42.00. The Manufacturers giving it at actual cost in consideration of the purpose for which it was to be used.

"A statement of the cost of said fence and expense of transporting and erecting the same with the name of those who contributed to the payment thereof is here attached.

"On the 11th day of May 1880, Dr. Isaac L. Milner and James C. Veatch with the aid of two men employed by them put up said fence at the grave and had it neatly painted.

"On the occasion of erecting the tombstone and putting up the fence, Mr. Henry C. Branham, superintendent of the Cincinnati, Rockport and St. Rail Road with characteristic liberality freighted all the material and gave free passes to all who aided in the work or attended as visitors.

"Now in consideration of the facts here stated we ask you to recognize the trust reposed in you by Mr. Henry Lewis and his associates as shown in his deed and to take such measures as may appear proper to protect and preserve the voluntary contributions of Mr. P. E. Studebaker and others mentioned herein.

"And for that purpose we request that you appoint a committee of ten citizens of Spencer County who under your direction shall take charge of the grounds, so conveyed and protect, preserve and improve the cause; but with the distinct stipulation that their services shall be rendered without charge and that all expense incurred in protecting and improving said premises must be met by the voluntary contributions of the people and never be made a charge against the county.

"And we further ask that Mr. J. D. Armstrong be made a member of that committee.

"Very respectfully,

"JAMES C. VEATCH,

"L. S. GILKEY,

"R. T. KERCHEVAL."

"Contributions from Citizens of Spencer County for the purpose of procuring and putting up an Iron Fence to enclose the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln at Lincoln City in Spencer County, Indiana.

"NOVEMBER 28, 1879.

William Statler	\$1.00	L. S. Gilkey	\$1.00
Levi E. Riggs	1.00	R. T. Kercheval	1.00
John Basye	1.00	S. W. Fairfield	1.00
James C. Veatch	1.00	James H. William	1.00
Daniel Hayford	1.00	R. S. Hicks	1.00
John B. Chrisney	1.00	C. L. Wedding	1.00
A. D. Garlinghouse	1.00	J. W. Cunningham	1.00
G. E. Feltman	1.00	Samuel Laird	1.00
W. H. Thomas	1.00	E. F. Rogers	1.00
Allen Gentry	1.00	S. W. Stocking	1.00
Willis Haynes	1.00	Jas. G. Greathouse	1.00
Dr. I. L. Milner	1.00	Dr. Jas. M. Daily	1.00
Dr. A. White	1.00	Col. J. S. Wright	1.00
Philip Eigenman	1.00	Henry Roetzel	1.00
E. H. Zachritz	1.00	Dr. H. L. Ambrose	1.00
W. T. Mason	1.00	Henry Ribkey	1.00
J. R. Dougherty	1.00	Thos. R. Hardy	1.00
C. F. Smith	1.00	Geo. B. Hibbs	1.00
J. C. Richardson	1.00	L. Kahn	1.00
G. W. Procaskey	1.00	Thos. Landsbury	1.00
Isaac Gillette	1.00	H. C. Pentecost	1.00
John G. Krueger	1.00	Neville & Ray	1.00
F. Weil & Co.	1.00	A. Kohlbecker	1.00

J. D. Armstrong	1.00	B. F. Bridges	1.00
M. Heichelbach	1.00	J. H. Walker	1.00

Total amount collected \$50.00

Cost of iron fence \$42.00

Freight 3.40

Paid labor in putting up 3.00

For trading lands 1.00

\$49.40

Balance in Hands of J. C. Veatch .60

"Now come Jas. C. Veatch, L. S. Gilkey and Robert Kercheval, and present a memorial showing that Henry Lewis of Cincinnati, Ohio has conveyed by deed of trust to the Board of Commissioners of Spencer County one-half acre of land at Lincoln City in said County upon which the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, the mother of Abraham Lincoln is situated and that P. E. Studebaker of South Bend, Indiana has caused to be erected at said grave a suitable tombstone and that the citizens of Rockport and vicinity have enclosed said grave with a neat iron fence.

"And ask that this board accept the trust imposed on them by Henry Lewis and that for the purpose of protecting, preserving and further improving the grounds so conveyed to them that a committee of ten citizens of Spencer County including J. D. Armstrong, County Auditor, be appointed to act under the orders of the board in taking charge of the said premises and protecting and improving the same.

"It is therefore ordered that the trust conveyed to the Board of Commissioners of Spencer County in the deed of Henry Lewis executed on the.....day of1879, and recorded in Book.....Page.....in the Record of deeds of Spencer County, is hereby accepted and the request of the memorial granted by the appointments of the following named persons towit:

“David Turnham
Nathanial Grigsby
J. D. Armstrong
R. T. Kercheval
James C. Veatch

Joseph Gentry
John W. Lamar
L. S. Gilkey
Dr. I. L. Milner
Henry C. Branham

“Who will act as a committee under orders and directors of the Board in charge of said grounds; and they are authorized to receive voluntary contributions and expend the same in such manner as they or a majority of them may deem fit in improving and protecting said grave and grounds.

“The members to serve without compensation and all expenses must be paid by voluntary contributions and no cost or expense of any kind touching said trust shall be paid by the County.

“Said Committee will be required to make report to the County Board at their June Term in each year.”

It is thought that the news item read by Mr. Studebaker which interested him in marking the grave of Lincoln's mother was the same article and poem published in many papers of 1868 which called attention to the neglected condition of the grave. There has been some controversy as to the author of the poem.

In our historical files, the true story of this is recorded, which I do not believe is known elsewhere. This record contains several letters from a Mrs. Columbia Wood of Evansville, Indiana, which tell the story of the poem published in the Rockport Journal of November, 1868. There is also a printed copy of the poem and a letter of Mr. John Chewning, editor of the Rockport *Journal*, concerning the poem. I quote the letters and poem here.

“May 24th, 1927.

“DEAR MRS. EHLMANN: —

“I believe you would be pleased to hear of an experience I had in 1868. I enclose a copy of some verses that were

published in the Rockport Journal in November, 1868 — 'The Neglected Grave of Lincoln's Mother.' The writer sent me a clipping at that time. Those verses were widely copied and caused much favorable comment. Later on the Studebaker memorial was erected.

"The writer was an ex-soldier of the Civil War, born in Waldo, Marion county, Ohio, Nov. 23, 1843, and died in Jerseyville, Ill., May 6, 1875.

"THE NEGLECTED GRAVE OF LINCOLN'S
MOTHER

(By WILLIAM Q. CORBIN)

"A wooded hill — a low sunk grave
Upon the hilltop hoary;
The Oak tree's branches o'er it wave;
Devoid of slab — no record save
Tradition's story.

"And who the humble dead that here
So lonely sleeps,
And who, as year rolls after year,
In summer green or autumn sere,
Comes here and weeps.

"So lone and dear, the forest wild
Unbroken seems,
We well might think some forest child,
Grown tired of hunt or war trail wild
Here lies and dreams.

"But no, no red man of the west
Inhabits here;
These clods by wild beasts pressed
Now lie upon the moldered breast
Of one more dear.

"For Lincoln's mother here is laid,
Far from her son,
No long procession, no false parades
Of pride or place was here displayed,
No requiem sung.

"No summer friends were crowded round
Her humble grave.
The summer breezes bore no sound
Save genuine grief, when this lone mound
Its echoes gave.

"Her husband, and her children dear,
And neighbors rude,
Dressed in their hardy homespun gear,
Were all that gathered round her bier,
In this lone wood.

"High-pile the marble above the breast
Of Chieftain slain;
While in the wild wood of the West,
In tomb by naught but Nature drest,
His mother is lain.

"Her grave from art or homage free
Neglected lies;
And pride and pomp, and vanity,
From this lone grave must ever flee,
As mockeries.

"A nation's grief and gratitude,
Bedecked his bier;
For her who sleeps in solitude,
In this lone grave in western wood,
Have ye no tear.

"And shall the mother of the brave,
And true and good,

Lie thus neglected in a grave,
Unfit for menial, clown or knave,
In this drear wood?

“Oh! Nation of the generous brave,
Be this your shame,
And let this grave without a name
No longer thus neglected be,
Beneath this forest tree.”

“June 1 — 27.

“DEAR MRS. EHLMANN:

“Enclo. an old letter from sister of Will Q. Corbin who wrote the very first protest on neglected grave of Lincoln's mother.

“I corresponded with Mr. Corbin for 5 yrs. — Nov. 1868 until Dec. 1873. I was married Jan'y 1, 1874.

“I rec'd that clipping from R. Jour in a letter. I have had it printed several times. I sent out dozens of proofs to newspapers — long ago with 'Please pub.'

“Mr. Corbin — 25 yrs. old — with a crew of young men was traveling selling maps and charts. They were in L'worth about six weeks — walked all over southern part of Harrison and Crawford counties. Then, by boat to Rockport — walking over the county he found the “low sunk grave.” He was a very interesting correspondent — 3 or 4 letters weekly, descriptions of events, people, etc.

“I haven't written to Mrs. Stone in 20 yrs. She is about my age — 77. She did not tell me — but I am sure he is buried in a nameless grave in Jerseyville, Ill. He is entitled to a headstone as a U. S. soldier. But I do not suppose anything has ever been done to recognize — and — I knew he never expected recognition for writing the first memorial to Lincoln's mother.

“I can get in touch with his Ohio relatives — and find out anything you want to know.

"I grew up in L'worth — I was 18 in 1868. I have lived in E'ville since '73 — taught school in old Canal St. Bldg.

"I have grown so deaf that I do not meet people — live alone with my daughter.

"Sincerely —

"COLUMBIA PAXTON WOOD."

"5740 Monroe Ave.

"Hyde Park

"Chicago, Ill.

"MY DEAR MRS. WOOD:

"How very kind of you to take the trouble to ascertain my address (or that of my husband) and give me so much pleasure in doing just what my dear brother wished. He wanted me to write in those days when he had first the pleasure of your acquaintance, but I am not gifted in letter writing as he was and felt my limitations keenly.

"Yes, he often spoke of you and your talents as well. I think he said you too wrote for some N. Y. paper at that time. After all these years, my heart is very heavy when I think of my dear brother, the best any girl ever had. I have two boys, the eldest is very much like him in looks and talents. He is a lawyer but is a student and has written some lovely things, so he keeps my brother's memory fresh, if anything were needed to do it.

"Let me thank you very much for your great goodness in this matter. You saw him later than I. I never saw him after he left home. I was married and had my little family and many cares and poor health and I let the rest of the family do the correspondence, and then he died suddenly with asthma, May 6, 1875, was sick but one week. If you remember he contracted the disease in the war. He was so young. The exposure he had to endure resulted in that disease and he was always troubled with it after his return from the war. Sometimes he would not be able to lie down

for a week and could never exert himself without an attack and that more than any other led him to pursue the calling he did as that did not call for physical exertions.

"I hope you will write me once in a while, although I know you must be busy. I think we must be nearly the same age. Let me again thank you very much for your interest in what concerns me very nearly. Any information you might want, I will be very happy in giving and shall look for Feb. 2 and thank you in advance.

"Very sincerely yours,

"CATHERINE STONE.

"March 14

"P. S. How did you obtain my address? K. S.

"THE ROCKPORT JOURNAL

"JOHN CHEWNING, Publisher.

"JOHN O. CHEWNING, Editor.

"Rockport, Indiana, Feb. 16, 1907

"MRS. COLUMBIA P. WOOD,

"Evansville, Ind.

"Dear Madam:

"Thank you for the further information concerning the authorship of 'The Neglected Grave of Lincoln's Mother.' I am returning herewith the fly-leaf with Corbin's writing.

"Yours truly,

"J. O. CHEWNING."

An interesting fact concerning the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln is told in the following letter written to me by the great grandson of the woman whose body lies by the side of Lincoln's mother. Several persons who were present at the dedication of the marker in 1879 told me about this incident, but the descendant's own words are conclusive.

"Aug. 27, 1937

"MRS. C. D. EHRLMAN

"Rockport, Ind.

"Dear Mrs. Ehrman:

"Will you please excuse me for the delay in answering your inquiry? I misplaced your letter, but found it today.

"My grandfather knew the location of Mrs. Lincoln's grave because his mother was laid to rest within one week of the death of Mrs. Lincoln and knew that they were laid side by side. He did not remember however who was buried on the north side, and when old Mr. Studebaker came here to locate the grave for erecting the monument my grandfather suggested that the iron fence be placed around both graves and a mound made between the two which was done. I enjoy knowing that my great grandmother is resting at Mrs. Lincoln's side and within that fenced enclosure.

"My grandfather, Allen Brooner, was born Oct. 22, 1813, and died Apr. 2, 1902.

"Sincerely,

O. I. BROONER."

Today the grave of Mrs. Lincoln is in the beautiful Nancy Hanks Lincoln Memorial Park which is maintained by the state and the Indiana Lincoln Union.

Many acres of ground have been added to the park through the years; 1,760 acres are included in the park and memorial area. The site of the cabin home is also within the boundary lines of the park, and on this site has been built an unusual memorial, the outlines of the log cabin where the Lincoln family lived, and a replica of the old fireplace. The original hearth stones were excavated, and they are preserved now under glass.

Spencer County erected a large marble shaft in 1917 to mark the cabin site. It was placed over the old hearth stones, the exact place of which was located by Mr. John

J. Brown of Rockport and Indianapolis who, as a boy, had often visited the spot with his parents. He said this marker should be placed over these old hearth stones, as it represented the heart of the home. The committee appointed to select the marker and have it erected was composed of the following persons: Allen J. Payton, chairman, W. W. Kellams, John Chewning, Sr., Helen Morgan Baumgaertner, Bess V. Ehrmann, Matthew Hirsch, John J. Brown.* The Lincoln Union removed this marker to the "Trail of Rocks" in the park, when the present memorial was erected. They likewise removed the large memorial headstone at Nancy Hanks Lincoln's grave which had been presented to the state of Indiana by Illinois. It, too, is to be found now on the "Trail of Rocks," a most beautiful and historic winding trail where rocks from many places connected with Lincoln's life have been secured and set in concrete with the history on bronze tablets.

Here one may learn much of the Emancipator's life and feel that they are on hallowed ground as they walk along the tree shaded paths where the boy Lincoln walked long ago.

* This committee was appointed by the Spencer County Historical Society. The Spencer County Commissioners appointed Mr. John Brown, chairman of their committee, with Allen J. Payton and John Chewning members of the committee.

SARAH LINCOLN'S GRAVE

Sarah Lincoln, Abraham Lincoln's only sister (who had married Aaron Grigsby, a Spencer County neighbor) died January 20, 1828.

She was a tragic little figure, known to the world only through the fame of the brother who had been her devoted playmate and companion in their childhood days.

Her grave remained unmarked long after Studebaker had marked the mother's grave.

On June 20, 1916, the state of Indiana erected a monument over her grave at Pigeon Creek Baptist cemetery, about a mile from the grave of Nancy Hanks, Lincoln's mother. At the dedication of the monument Fred VanNuys of Indianapolis, now United States senator from Indiana, delivered the oration. Jessie Weik of Greencastle, biographer of Lincoln, gave the history, and Max Ehrmann of Terre Haute read the following poem he had written for the occasion:

"The summer moon and sun have watched her sleep
Now fourscore years and eight. To him this place
Was ever dear with twilight's tender memories;
For here her laughing lips cried out, "Halloo!"
As up the path he came at close of day.
A thousand times he bore her on his back,
With boyish strength abused her lovingly,
Provoked by playful taunts, by many jests.
Then she, returning to her tasks indoors,
Left him alone to brood upon the night.
The sunset built famed cities in his brain,
Forced from his breast the sigh for surging men,
Welling up, like wind-tossed rivers, one great hope,

Plate 20



Sarah Lincoln Grigsby's grave in Spencer County, Indiana

To force from life the promises of dream.
One round of toiling days, of peaceful nights.
He stood here once, a saddened boy, forlorn,
And saw her form descend into the earth.
Thus early came the gloaming to his soul,
Into his boyish eyes the far-off look.

“That, yearning, seeks to see where death has trod.
He wandered forth, through darkened wilderness;
Yet somehow ever wandered toward the light,
Until he held a nation in his hand.
He was a rock in storm: in milder days
A pliant branch bent down with mellow fruit.
He was as tender as the yellow leaves
That autumn winds toss o’er her grave.
Through leaden days, through fevered flaming nights,
Through hate and horror of a blood-smeared land,
This early sorrow made for love in him.
Here, then, was sorrow garnished, grief made great.
Here bloomed the balm that soothed a nation’s wounds.
And his dead self still makes for love and peace.”

THE LINCOLN PAGEANT

As an outcome of the "Lincoln Inquiry" in Spencer County, the citizens becoming Lincoln minded, as it were, decided to honor Lincoln's fourteen formative years in their county with a living memorial, as they called it, to his memory.

On July 4, 1926, at the old boat landing on the Ohio River in Rockport, where Lincoln had embarked on his first flatboat trip to New Orleans, was staged a pageant, "When Lincoln Went Flatboating From Rockport." This pageant portrayed the important incidents in Lincoln's life in Indiana.

The actors numbered about five hundred, and they came from all over the county and were largely the descendants of the friends and neighbors of the Lincolns during their residence in Spencer County.

Two performances of the pageant were given, one at four P. M. and one at eight P. M., each lasting two hours.

The pageant was under the auspices of the Spencer County Historical Society and the Indiana Lincoln Memorial Association.

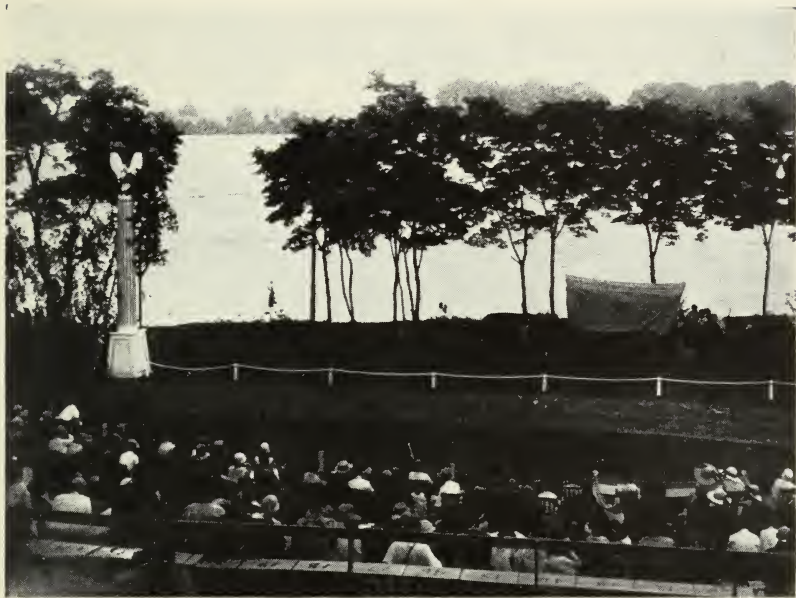
This same pageant was given again on July 4, 1928, and again on July 4, 1930, with two performances each day.

A moving picture of the pageant was taken in 1930, by the generosity of Mr. John L. Iglehart, cousin of Mr. John E. Iglehart of Evansville. Mr. Arthur E. Gress of Evansville did the filming.

After being shown in numerous movie houses and schools in southern Indiana, the film was used for two years by the Iowa State School of Visual Instruction.

It is now in the possession of the Museum of Fine Arts and History in Evansville. The negative was presented to

Plate 21



The pageant stage on the Ohio River. Lincoln left this spot in 1828
on his first flatboat trip to New Orleans

the Indiana Historical Bureau at Indianapolis, for safe-keeping, and will some day be of historic value, to inquirers of another generation.

As a Living Memorial to the Memory of Abraham
Lincoln's Fourteen Years in Spencer
County, Indiana.

THE PAGEANT

"WHEN LINCOLN WENT FLATBOATING FROM ROCKPORT"

ROCKYSIDE PARK, ROCKPORT, INDIANA

Author and Director — BESS V. EHLMANN
Assistant Director — LUCILE RICHARDS

This Biennial Historical Pageant was produced by the
Spencer County Historical Society under the auspices of the
Indiana Lincoln Memorial Association.

OFFICERS SPENCER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Taylor C. Basye, President
Bess V. Ehrmann, Vice President
Laura Mercy Wright, Secretary
U. S. Lindsey, Treasurer

OFFICERS INDIANA LINCOLN MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

President — Professor L. N. Hines, Indiana State Teachers' College, Terre Haute.
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Robert Miller

Bess V. Ehrmann, Director

Jessie Heuring

MARSHAL OF PAGEANT

Loney Parsley

FOREWORD

"The wind of Heaven never fanned,
The circling sunlight never spanned
The borders of a fairer land
Than our own Indiana."

In the year 1816 Indiana became the nineteenth state of our United States of America.

In that same year Thomas Lincoln with his wife, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, and his two children, Sarah, aged nine years, and Abraham, aged seven years, left their Kentucky home and came to the new state of Indiana. Here they lived in Spencer County until 1830 when they moved to Illinois. The mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, and the daughter, Sarah, both died and were buried here.

The formative years of Abraham's life were spent in Spencer County. Here he worked, studied, played and grew to manhood. He witnessed his parent's struggle against the virgin wilderness and saw childhood fade with the death of his mother. When he bade farewell to Indiana he went to Illinois almost, if not entirely, equipped for the great work that lay before him. Kentucky gave him birth, Illinois gave him his political career, but Indiana molded the man and here in Indiana he learned from our forefathers the art of living.

As an act of patriotism the citizens of Rockport and

Spencer County portray this pageant every second year as a living memorial to his memory and that of their own ancestors. The actors are for the most part descendants of those pioneer men and women who lived here and were friends of the Lincolns.

The pageant ground is the spot in Rockport, on the beautiful Ohio, where Abraham Lincoln, at the age of nineteen years, had the first great adventure of his life, going with Allen Gentry on Gentry's flatboat to New Orleans to market the Gentry produce. On this trip he saw slaves whipped and sold and vowed if he ever had a chance to hit this evil, he would hit it hard.

The writer of the pageant has tried to be historically accurate. Only a few changes have been made for dramatic effectiveness.

Heralds Announce: "HEAR YE! HEAR YE! THE PAGEANT 'WHEN LINCOLN WENT FLATBOATING FROM ROCKPORT' IS ABOUT TO BEGIN."

"Abraham Lincoln the Child, the Growing Boy,
the Youth, the Man."

(The four Lincolns are introduced to the audience.)

PRELUDE

Heralds Announce: "The beauty of forest and river is portrayed. Indiana becomes a state in 1816."

To the sound of music, girls representing water nymphs, led by the Spirit of the Ohio, advance upon the stage. The Spirit of the Ohio portrays the movement of the water in a beautiful dance. Then comes the Spirit of the Forest, followed by the wood nymphs, the wild flowers, the bees and butterflies, young girls with floating draperies represent storm clouds that gather bringing the raindrops, represented by little children in a dance.

The brilliant sun casts its rays over all and the flowers lift their raindrenched heads and all nature smiles.

The four seasons enter at close of the dance of the sun. Columbia advances with Liberty and Justice followed by her eighteen states.

Young Indiana Territory appears, followed by young women bearing the gifts that Indiana Territory offers to Columbia to join the states—forests, fruits, corn, wheat, tobacco and minerals. Indiana and her maidens kneel before Columbia, who rises, approaches Indiana and takes her hand and accepts her as a state. Spencer County and Rockport enter, bringing Progress, Education, Religion and Music. Then Columbia advances to front of stage, surrounded by all the states, Liberty, Justice, gift maidens, nymphs and other symbolic figures. All sing "America," after which all leave stage.

Heralds Announce: "The prologue will now be spoken, as the ferry boat, with the Lincoln family on board, crosses the Ohio river from Kentucky to Indiana."

(While the prologue is being read an old fashioned ferry boat can be seen crossing the river. It is timed to arrive at the close of the prologue.)

PROLOGUE

(Spoken by the Spirit of History)

Deep from the long buried past of your father's father,
Deep from the dim misty silence of ages forgotten,
Summoned am I, to the shore of the winding Ohio,
To tell you a story, fragrant with names of your loved ones,
A pioneer story — the tale of the old lower landing.

I

When the music of water alone was heard thru the forest,

Here on this bank were beached the canoes of the Indians.
Here, when the Indians had vanished in ominous silence,
Our forefathers fashioned their flatboats, crude and unwieldy;

Toiled with a song on their lips and a gun by their side,
Thinking, dreaming of far-away Orleans, yet mindful
Of pioneer dangers — of wild beasts that lurked in the bushes.

Here, when the wind blew chill o'er the white capped river,
Came James Gentry, Allen, his son, and Lincoln,
Riding from Gentryville here in a wagon,
Loaded with pork, with apples, meal and potatoes,
Produce destined for market down at New Orleans.

Imagine the scene at this spot, the old lower landing!
James, cautioning his son, advising the other;
Sure of their judgment, yet 'fraid of the hazardous journey,
While confident youth strained at the leash to be off;
Frost in the air and water lapping the flatboat,
Grandeur of bluffs and Dawn in the heart of Abe Lincoln!

II

Down — Down the winding waterway
A thousand miles to Orleans,
Leaving Indiana
Where the Mississippi calls;
Past house-boats, flatboats, and proud white steamboats,
Sand-bars, rocky bluffs, and tinkling waterfalls.

Up — up the winding waterway
A thousand miles to Rockport
Riding in a steamer
Thru the Mississippi waves;
Visioning Frenchmen, Spaniards, and soft voiced Creoles,
Sugar cane, cotton fields, and handcuffed slaves!

III

The historic voyage is ended. The old lower landing
Forever is hallowed, where feet of our ancestors trod.
Reflecting not only the glory that came to Abe Lincoln,
This port (now forsaken for practical purposes) harks
Back to the gay panorama of river town life;
Back to the years when the calliope played of an evening,
And roustabouts sang as their barges glided down stream.

Lincoln is gone. Departed the founders of Rockport.
Flatboats no longer shove off from the old lower landing,
Steamboats no longer cast anchor here at this shore,
Yet the memory of those who lived in the shade of this bluff
Shall linger, as long as these rocks their permanence hold.

So, come! Let us conjure the past of this pioneer people,
Laugh with the merry, weep with the ones who shed tears.
I call for your pleasure the scenes of the past and second
An historic people. Listen, enjoy and learn,
While twilight descends, and the moon rises over the river,
And oncoming night gently gives benediction.

EPISODE I

Heralds Announce: "In the year 1816 the Lincoln family arrive on Indiana soil near Anderson Creek after crossing the Ohio River."

Thomas Lincoln and wife, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, and two children, Abraham and Nancy, arrive in Indiana in 1816 after their long trip from their Kentucky home. While Thomas asks questions of the ferryman, Nancy with her children kneels and offers prayer for their safe arrival in the new state.

EPISODE II

Heralds Announce: "Two years later, in 1818, Nancy Hanks Lincoln dies and is buried on a nearby hillside. This

scene shows the return of the family and friends from the funeral."

In 1818 Nancy Hanks Lincoln died from a disease known as milk sickness. A coffin was made from lumber cut out of logs by a whip saw and put together with wooden pegs. She was buried on a hillside near the little cabin home. Her body in its rude coffin was pulled on a sled to its last resting place. There was no ceremony and no preacher, just a few friends and the sorrowing family. Months later a minister from Kentucky held a religious service for the departed wife and mother.

EPISODE III

Heralds Announce: "One year later Thomas Lincoln, after a visit to the old home in Kentucky, returns to Indiana with his second wife and her three children. Abraham, Sarah and Dennis Hanks welcome the new mother."

Thomas Lincoln, after the death of his wife, found life an uphill struggle and finally, about a year later, he returned to the old home in Kentucky and while there met a former sweetheart, Sarah Bush Johnston, who had been married and widowed. Thomas proposed marriage and was accepted. On December 2, 1819, they were married and soon left for the Indiana home. Ralph Krume, who had married Mary Lincoln, sister of Thomas, was pressed into service with his four horse team and the new Mrs. Lincoln with her three children, Elizabeth, Matilda and John, her husband, Thomas, and her furniture and household belongings, left Kentucky for Indiana. On their arrival in Indiana, they are greeted by Abraham and Sarah Lincoln and Dennis Hanks.

EPISODE IV

Heralds Announce: "Lincoln goes to the Hammond tannery at Grandview."

Abraham Lincoln, now a tall, strong boy, goes to the

Hammond tannery to have a hide tanned for his father. Here he shows his strength as a wrestler.

EPISODE V

Heralds Announce: "The pioneer school where Abe Lincoln was taught manners as well as the three R's."

The boy Lincoln attended several schools in Spencer County. One was taught by Andrew Crawford who taught manners as well as "book larnin'." He also taught the children how to accept introductions and give them and to understand the etiquette of the day.

EPISODE VI

Heralds Announce: "Lincoln walks to Rockport to borrow a book from John Pitcher." (Street scene in Rockport in 1827.)

At Rockport lived the noted lawyer, John Pitcher, who was also postmaster from 1827 to 1832. Lincoln walks from his home near Gentryville to Rockport, seventeen miles, to borrow a book from Pitcher. He finds Pitcher just leaving to try a case at Boonville but he loans Abe the book. Later Lincoln, in a group of friends, tries to imitate Pitcher as an orator and delivers an address on temperance.

(In this scene are a number of descendants of the founders of Rockport, the first landowner, the first postmaster, the ones who selected Rockport as the county seat, the first couple married in Rockport, etc.)

EPISODE VII

Heralds Announce: "The marriage of Ann Roby and Allen Gentry."

Allen Gentry, son of James Gentry, who employed Abraham Lincoln as a farm hand, came to Rockport to live about 1826. On March 19, 1828, Allen Gentry and Ann Roby were married in Rockport. Some time later in the year



THOMAS LINCOLN

And his second wife as played by
Judge Fred Heuring and Mrs.
Fannie Wright



NANCY HANKS LINCOLN

As played by Grace Huffman Pat-
tie, descendant of Spencer County
pioneers



SARAH LINCOLN

As played by Mildred Brown, rela-
tive of Nancy Hanks Lincoln



THE BOY LINCOLN

as played by Millard Huffman
whose grandfather knew Lincoln



ALLEN GENTRY

As played by his great grandson,
Roby Gentry



JUDGE JOHN PITCHER

As acted by Hon. John Posey



ANDREW CRAWFORD

The teacher who taught manners
as well as the three R's as acted by
Mr. Will Adams, grandson of
Josiah Crawford



ANN ROBY

As played by her great grand-
daughter Ann Gentry

Gentry went on that memorable trip, taking Lincoln along with him as an oarsman. The wedding is followed by an old fashioned frolic.

EPISODE VIII

Heralds Announce: "Loading of the Gentry flatboat for its southern trip."

Allen Gentry was the owner of the flatboat on which Abraham Lincoln was engaged as oarsman. His father and brothers brought produce from Gentryville and the boat was loaded for its southern trip in the fall of 1828. With the goodbyes of family and friends, Gentry and Lincoln leave on their hazardous journey.

(Every actor in this scene with the exception of Lincoln and boat helper are direct descendants of James Gentry and Allen Gentry.)

EPISODE IX

Heralds Announce: "The Lincolns leave Indiana for Illinois in 1830."

In 1830 Thomas Lincoln, his wife, Sarah Bush Lincoln, and Abraham, now a young man of twenty-one, and the families of Dennis Hanks and Levi Hall, who had married Matilda and Sarah Johnson, numbering thirteen in all, immigrated to Illinois.

Sarah, Abraham's sister, who had married Aaron Grigsby, had died in 1828, so in Indiana he was leaving behind the burial spot of mother and sister.

EPISODE X

Heralds Announce: "As a Clay elector, Lincoln returns to Rockport in 1844."

In 1844, when Lincoln was making speeches for Henry Clay, candidate for President, he visited Rockport and Gentryville and mingled again with friends of his boyhood.

In Rockport he is introduced by Colonel William Jones, his old friend, who tells the people that Lincoln will now address them on the political issues of the day. Lincoln says: "By what authority do you say this?" Colonel Jones strikes his own chest with his hand and says: "By this authority." Lincoln smiles, and then greets the people and invites them to the court house where he will make a speech. John Pitcher goes with them.

FINALE

Columbia with Liberty and Justice and all the states advance onto the stage, followed by all actors. Columbia raises her flag and the band plays "The Star Spangled Banner." Then all slowly pass off of stage, Columbia and the states being the last to leave.



Replica of the last Spencer County home of the Lincolns,
in Lincoln Pioneer Village, at Rockport



Replica of Old Pigeon Baptist Church in Lincoln Pioneer
Village



Log Cabin Law Office of John Pitcher in Lincoln Pioneer
Village in Rockport

A LINCOLN PIONEER VILLAGE

Do men's dreams come true? Well, sometimes they do, and today in the quaint old fashioned town of Rockport, Indiana, an artist's dream has taken form.

When we study the lives of the old masters, we often find stories of disappointment, frustration and heart-break in the lives of those men who created great works of art, yet many of them never lived long enough to see their work appreciated at its true value.

So years of artistic endeavor, which have produced numerous fine creations in sculpture and bronze have passed for the Indiana artist George H. Honig born and reared in Spencer County, Indiana, where Abraham Lincoln spent the fourteen formative years of his life from the age of seven to twenty-one — yet there was one thing this artist had longed to do that had never been accomplished.

He had dreamed for years of creating a memorial to that former Spencer County boy, who grew up in the same county, and who afterwards became America's greatest citizen, Abraham Lincoln. But always there were handicaps; lack of interest among the citizens, little money, a home to maintain, other work to be done, oh, many things to prevent the realization of his dream. Then came the depression, and this artist, like others throughout the country, had a struggle even to live, but finally through the Government Public Works of Art Projects, the artist was given a commission for an educational, sculptured mural for one of the county high schools, "ABRAHAM LINCOLN AND JAMES GRIGSBY'S FOREST COLLEGE."

Lincoln's education, as we know, was largely acquired in Indiana's great outdoors. It was Lincoln's custom to read to his friends out in the forest and to repeat for them

speeches he had heard elsewhere by prominent men of the community in which he lived. So this mural shows Lincoln and his friend, Grigsby, in the forest where Lincoln is reading some interesting book aloud.

The mural was finished and a big celebration held for its unveiling and noted speakers came from afar, to voice their interest and approval, but still the artist was not satisfied.

Now, with F. E. R. A. and W. P. A. assistance, his greatest dream has come true, the building of a "Lincoln Pioneer Village," a type of village in Spencer County, Indiana, when the Lincoln family lived there from 1816 to 1830. Unceasingly has the artist toiled with his helpers to erect this unique memorial to the great Emancipator, and it is now completed, this village of log houses, school, store and church, surrounded by a high log stockade and set in a forest of century old trees.

There are sixteen log cabins in this village:

1. Administration Buildings and Museum room.
2. Pioneer cabin home. Maintained by Rockport Legion Auxiliary.
3. John Pitcher Law Office.
4. Jones Store. Maintained by Rockport Woman's Club.
5. Reuben Grigsby Home. Maintained by Silverdale Home Economics Club.
6. Gentry Mansion. Maintained by descendants of the Gentry family.
7. Replica. Old Pigeon Baptist Church.
8. Azel Dorsey Home and old fashioned garden. Maintained by Rockport Garden Club.
9. Daniel Grass Home. Maintained by descendants of the Grass family.
10. Pioneer school house.
11. Aunt Lepha Mackey home.
12. Replica of last home of Lincolns in Spencer County. Maintained by James C. Veatch Women's Relief Corps.



GEORGE H. HONIG

Artist and sculptor, creator of the
"Lincoln Pioneer Village"



LINCOLN MURAL IN ROCKPORT, INDIANA, HIGH SCHOOL. By George H. Honig.

13. Brown's Inn. Maintained by Rockport Business and Professional Woman's Club.

14. Grandview Block House.

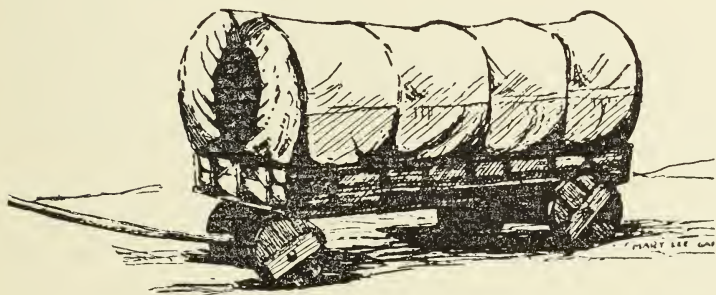
15. Market and Barter House.

16. Josiah Crawford Home.

17. Covered wagon, oxcarts, sweep and windlass wells, mill-burrs, shaving horse, ash hoppers, soap kettles, hitch racks, grind stones, mould board plow, prehistoric rocks and other pioneer exhibits in the village grounds.

Mr. Honig has created a memorial to Lincoln, unlike any other ever erected to his memory, and thousands visit it yearly to learn of the primitive conditions that developed our greatest American.

Our state and our nation should honor this artist who has created a work of art that is not surpassed by any other work of its kind in our country.



THOMAS SPARROW'S WILL

On July 6, 1936, a thin sheet of yellowed paper with old fashioned script dimmed by years was found by Works Progress Administration women workers who were renovating the court files in the Spencer county court house at Rockport. It looked like any of the hundreds of documents they had been indexing and putting in order. But in the left hand corner they found something that made them gasp.

It read, "Nancy Lincoln, her mark." There, with a small x, the mother of Abraham Lincoln had affixed her signature as witness to a will. It was the testament of Thomas Sparrow, her uncle, who with his wife, Betsy Hanks Sparrow, had come to Spencer County from Kentucky in 1817, and made his home with the Lincolns. They also brought with them, Dennis Hanks, Nancy's cousin, who was the beneficiary of the will, and who lived with the Lincoln family many years.

Shortly after the will was attested in September, 1818, Thomas Sparrow died, a victim of the epidemic of "milk fever." His wife succumbed to the same disease shortly thereafter, and in the middle of October, 1818, Nancy Lincoln also died of the milk fever.

The document reads as follows:

"October 9th, 1818. This twenty-first day of September in the year Eighteen Hundred and Eighteen Thomas Sparrow is in perfect senses on this date above mentioned, that all the goods and chattels that the above mentioned Thomas Sparrow has is to belong to his wife Elizabeth Sparrow so that she can do as she pleases with until her death and after her death the whole of the property above mentioned is to

Oct 9th 1818

I hereby give my of September 1818 the year Eighteen hundred and Eighteen Thomas Sparrow is in his perfect senses on this date above mentioned that all the goods and chattels that the above mentioned Thomas Sparrow has as to belong to his wife Elizabeth Sparrow together the hair as so she pleases with it untill her death and after her death the whole of the property above mentioned is to fall to Dennis Hanks when he comes of age and that the above Sparrow has made bills of Thomas Carter to be his Executor for his Effects above written this found under my hand and seal

David Casabian
Nancy Lincoln

Thomas Sparrow

Indiana State & County of
Spencer Oct

John Morgan Clerk of the Circuit Court of Spencer County do Certify that the within writing purporting to be the last will and testament of Thomas Sparrow was proved by David Casabian one of the subscribing witnesses and Thomas Carter who was a by Stander and heard the same acknowledge who made oath to the same Thomas Carter on the 28 day of September 1818 & David Casabian on the 9th day of October 1818 who states that the testator was of sound mind and memory and that I have caused the same to be recorded in my office this 9th of Oct 1818

John Morgan Clerk

— Courtesy of Mina Cook

The Thomas Sparrow Will

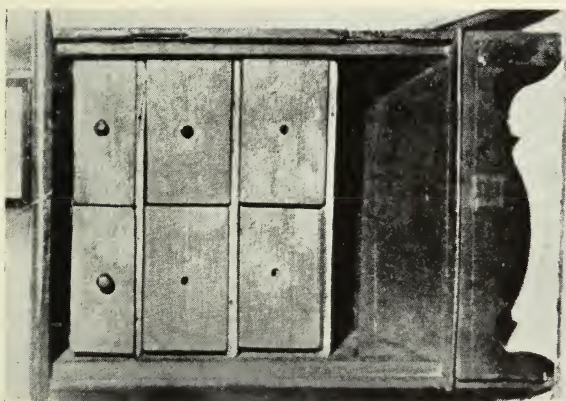
fall to Dennis Hanks when he comes of age and that the above T. Sparrow has made choise of Thomas Carter to be his Executor for his effects above written this from under my hand and seal. Signed: David Casebier, Nancy Lincoln her mark, and Thomas Sparrow his mark."

LINCOLN — CABINET MAKER

It has been said many times that Thomas Lincoln was a good carpenter and cabinet maker and that his son had learned the trade from his father. They both helped build the old Pigeon Baptist Church and assisted in the erection of other pioneer cabins besides their own.

When they left Indiana for the new home in Illinois, they left behind them in the homes of neighbors several pieces of their cabinet making.

In the Lincoln Room of the Museum of Fine Arts and History in Evansville, Indiana, is a cabinet which was made and used by Abraham Lincoln in his youth in Spencer County. It is a priceless treasure and was given to the Museum by Miss Sara Wartman. The cabinet had been presented many years ago to Mr. J. W. Wartman of the Superior Court in Evansville by John W. Lamar of Buffaloville, Spencer County, Indiana. It is made of walnut and poplar boards whipsawed. The nails that Lincoln used were wood, but in later years metal nails were driven in. He used it to keep his papers and books in, what few he had. On top of the cabinet is a little hollow which is said to have been made by Lincoln's candle. It is a small cabinet measuring $23\frac{3}{8}$ inches in height, $16\frac{3}{4}$ inches in width and $14\frac{3}{4}$ inches in depth. When the Lincolns left Indiana for Illinois only the most necessary belongings could be taken with them in their covered wagon, so Abe gave the cabinet he had made and used to his friend and neighbor, John W. Lamar, and it has been preserved through the years, showing the handiwork of the boy Lincoln. Many histories have mentioned the corner cupboard made for Mrs. Josiah Crawford by the Lincolns. Some say it was made by Thomas Lincoln



Cabinet made and used by Abe Lincoln in Spencer County, Indiana



Corner Cupboard made by Lincoln for Mrs. Josiah Crawford in Spencer County, Indiana

and some by the son. Several years ago this cabinet was sold to Henry Ford by Mrs. Crawford's great granddaughter, Mrs. Maude Jennings Cryderman, whom I know. Mrs. Cryderman sent me a printed photograph of the corner cupboard and its history several years before it was sold to Mr. Ford for his collection in Dearborn, Michigan. It is fully authenticated by sworn affidavits of many old pioneers acquainted with its history. It is officially recorded (Record No. 9372) in Tipton County, Indiana, state records.

Mrs. Cryderman told of the close personal relations of her great grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Josiah Crawford, and about both Abe and Sarah making their home a part of the time with the Crawfords. She then recounted the story of the damaged book, "Weem's Life of Washington," which has been mentioned previously. This book which was damaged and for which Lincoln paid Crawford seventy-five cents was then his to keep. He was so proud of this book, the first he ever owned, that he wished to do something nice for Mrs. Crawford. He had heard her express a wish for a corner cupboard, so with his father's permission, he made this cupboard and presented it to Mrs. Crawford.

Years later, when he had become President of the United States, the Crawfords considered this cupboard as a "gift beyond price" and upon their death it became the property of their daughter, Mrs. Ruth Crawford Jennings, whose home was at Buffaloville, Spencer County, Indiana, just a short distance from the Crawford and Lincoln homes. Years later, in her widowed old age, she went to make her home with her son, Samuel Hatzel Jennings, in Rockport, Indiana — the county seat of Spencer County — and to him she sold the precious heirloom and he had it moved from her former home in Buffaloville to his home in Rockport.

In 1918, after his death, it was purchased from his estate by his daughter, Mrs. Maude Jennings Cryderman. In February, 1919, on the occasion of Lincoln's 110th anniversary, it was shipped by special request to the National Old Soldiers' Home at Satelle, California — the first time in its existence it had ever been taken out of Spencer County, Indiana.

There it was placed on the stage of the Government theatre and a most interesting talk given by the Chaplain, Reverend Kaufman, while 3,000 old Civil War veterans filed slowly by and lovingly examined the handiwork of the martyred President.

From the Old Soldiers' Home the priceless old relic was taken to the Museum of History, Science and Art, Los Angeles — one of the largest museums of the United States — where it was given the place of honor in the mezzanine of the historical room where it received a special setting. Today it is in the wonderful Ford Museum where thousands view it every year when they visit Dearborn, Michigan.

Despite its more than 100 years of existence, it is still in a perfect state of preservation. It stands seven feet high and weighs over three hundred pounds, being made of solid native walnut. There are two sets of doors (four in all) which are nicely paneled and there is a strip of hand carving across the front of the cupboard above the upper set of doors. The entire front is put together with walnut pegs while the back is fastened with hand wrought-iron nails. Old fashioned brass hinges are on the doors.

It is still in its natural native walnut finish, as it was when Lincoln gave it to the Crawfords, more than a century ago. The great care with which it was made indicates clearly that it was a labor of love on the part of the boy, Lincoln, and it was something which he, as well as its recipients, might well be proud.

These two examples of cabinet making as done by Lincoln, show us that he learned a trade while in Spencer County, that of cabinet maker and carpenter, the same training which was given another youth in Galilee long ago.

HIS SPIRIT LIVES

Lincoln's fame grows greater with the years, and these places in southern Indiana that knew him as a growing boy will have greater importance in the future.

Those of our generation, who have known so intimately the descendants of Lincoln's friends and neighbors, will pass away, and many of the stories of pioneer days and friendships will die with them.

Each year, however, will come those who search out the lives of great men, and they will visit this land of pleasant rivers, great hills and forests, among a peaceful, toiling people, our Indiana.

Traditions and memories of other years shall cling to these places, made sacred by the great man who once lived here. We walk over the paths his feet trod as a boy, and sitting under a great tree near the site of his cabin home, we meditate on his youth and his later achievements.

How does a life like Lincoln's help us? It gives us strength to bear our trials, to do the tasks before us without complaint, and to go our way with quiet dignity.

Amid the confusion of the present, we are able to keep peace in our souls, to learn the lessons of the years and know that he who shall come to the best in life must give to the world his best, as did Abraham Lincoln.

We learn from him to meet bravely whatever comes; to stand alone unafraid, for God has sent each person to serve His plan; so we must do the right as we see it and be ourselves.

In closing this record of his Indiana years, I wish to quote the great poem of Albion Fellows Bacon written for our Southwestern Indiana Historical Society in 1925, and published later by the Indiana Magazine of History.

LINCOLN

By ALBION FELLOWS BACON

I

The Challenge

Ye who search for the Hidden Springs,
Ye who look for a sign,
Ye who worship at Freedom's feet,
Here is her holiest shrine.

Here grew a new Democracy,
Here was the eaglet's nest,
Where his wings grew strong for his after flight —
Here, in our Middle West.

II

Lincoln's Education

No Alma Mater of the cap and gown
Had Lincoln, but two Gentle mothers, dressed
In homespun, taught him all their simple lore,
And life's great lessons on his soul impressed.
The neighbors, too, wood wisdom and farm craft
Gave to him, and true hospitality,
With sturdy independence; (mark the race
That lives here still, for there are none so free.)

Each traveller who passed his way brought bits
Of wisdom, mixed with gossip, and some word
Of the great world. From passengers he rowed
Across the ferry, tales and news he heard.

He had few books, but they were choice and great,
Read o'er and o'er. Then, ranging far and wide,
Through all the settlements, for treasured tomes,
He gleaned the learning of the country-side.

They tell us how the eager lad, enrapt,
Bent o'er the page the firelight flashed upon,
And the first sun-shaft, through the cabin chink,
Found him with open book, awaiting dawn.

But 'twas the wilderness that taught him most,
Made him a mystic, seer; drew him, at length,
To greatness, by its dim, vast distances,
Taught patience, silence, fortitude and strength.

Far blue horizons beckoned from these hills,
Great visions mirrored in the shadowy stream.
The Gulf called through the creek, and overhead
The wide spread heavens re-told the ancient dream.

The heavens declared to him the glory of God,
But did they give him, too, a vague belief
(Standing, perchance, in moonlight mid the sheaves)
That all should make obeisance to his sheaf?

III

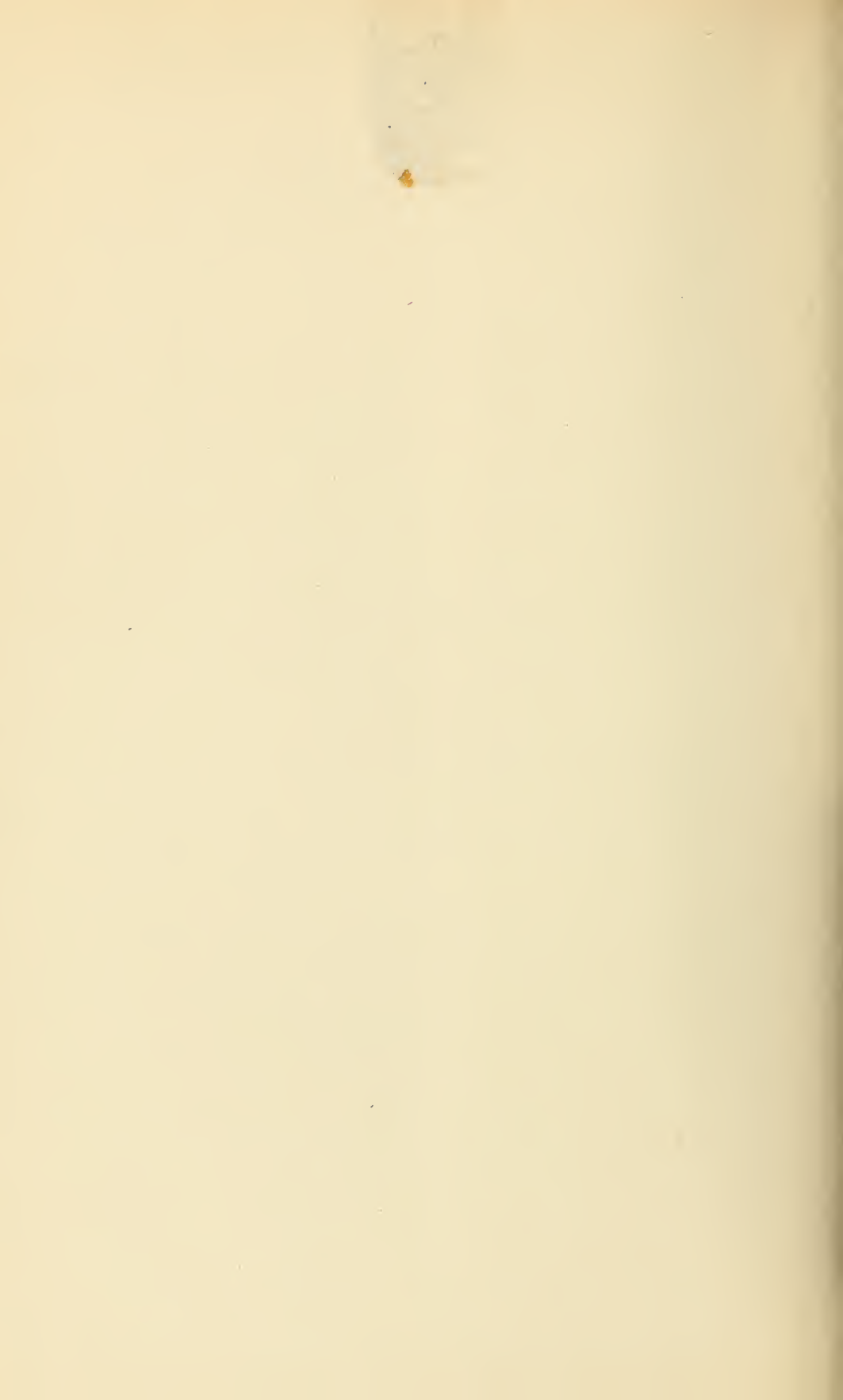
Greeting

Great Lincoln, neighbor of an earlier time,
The world your manhood claims; to us alone
Belongs your youth. We reach back eager hands
To clasp your own.

We send our loving thought to that grave lad
Whom all men loved — kind, gentle, thoughtful, true,
Our "Nature's gentleman." As you were then,
We honor you.







137163
C2 EHRM

A New Lincoln Book

The Missing Chapter *in the* Life of Abraham Lincoln

By

BESS V. EHRMANN

*Published under the auspices of the
Southwestern Indiana Historical
Society.*

Price, \$3.50



ABRAHAM LINCOLN AND JAMES GRIGGS'S "FOREST COLLEGE" IN SPENCER CO. INDIANA 1816-1830

LINCOLN MURAL IN ROCKPORT, INDIANA, HIGH SCHOOL. By George H. Honig.

Oct 9th 1818

I have first day of September in the year 1818
 married and English Thomas Sparrow is in his perfect
 senses on this date about mentioned that all the goods
 and chattels that the above mentioned Thomas Sparrow
 has so to belong to his wife Elizabeth Sparrow & that
 she can do as she pleases with it untill her death
 and and after her death the whole of the pro-
 -perty above mentioned to fall to Dennis Hanks
 when he comes of age and that the above Sparrow
 has made know of Thomas Carter to be his Executor
 for his Effects above written this joint under my
 hand and seal

test
 David Casebier
 Nancy Casebier

Thomas Sparrow Seal
 mark

Indiana State & County of
 Spencer

I John Morgan Clerk of the
 Circuit Court of Spencer County do certify that the
 within writing purporting to be the last will and
 testament of Thomas Sparrow was proven by David
 Casebier one of the subscribing witnesses and Thomas
 Carter who was a by Stander and heard the same
 acknowledged who made oath to the same Thomas
 Carter on the 28th day of September 1818 & David Case-
 bier on the 5th day of October 1818 who states that
 the testator was of sound mind and memory
 and that I have caused the same to
 be recorded in my office this 9th of
 Oct 1818

John Morgan Clerk

— Courtesy of Mina Cook

PHOTO OF THE THOMAS SPARROW WILL.

Indiana yields fresh facts on Lincoln's life in this new book which is the result of eighteen years of research by the people of southern Indiana.

In the year 1920, Mr. John E. Iglehart of Evansville, Indiana, founded the Southwestern Indiana Historical Society and shortly after coined the phrase, "The Lincoln Inquiry." He realized there was a missing chapter in Lincoln's life, the fourteen formative years from 1816-1830 spent in Indiana, which had never been written by historians and which could never be written by outsiders who would spend a few days or weeks in Spencer County, but it should be written by the children and grandchildren of those people who knew Lincoln in his boyhood days.

Mr. William Fortune of Indianapolis, one of Indiana's best known citizens, had been interested in this same inquiry for half a century, realizing that an investigation of the neighborhood in which the Lincoln family lived would be of great historical value.

Mr. Fortune believed as did Mr. Iglehart that when the biographies of Lincoln's neighbors were written, then would be had the missing chapter. Some of Mr. Fortune's findings are published in this book with those of many other investigators of later date.

In the course of the intervening years since the society was founded, about three hundred papers have been written on Lincoln and his contemporaries in southern Indiana, and a wealth of new facts relative to his boyhood, his youth, his dream of greatness, his famous flatboat trip to New Orleans, his reading, occupations and his conversation with neighbors and friends have come to light in the reminiscences of the pioneers, all now to be collected in Mrs. Ehrmann's book.

The book is profusely illustrated with more than sixty photographs, about thirty representing Lincoln's old neighbors, friends of his family and other contemporaries of his early years, the rest being scenes from the Lincoln country in Indiana, historical sites, localities associated with the life of the Lincolns, and portraits. Of great appeal is a facsimile of the only known signature of Lincoln's mother — her mark — and pictures of furniture made by her famous son in his early years and discovered in recent times. Other illustrations repre-

sent the work of the local artists Mary Lee Gabbert and George H. Honig.

All Lincoln students will be interested in this remarkable record of the forgotten years in the Emancipator's life and the many interesting facts that have been the outcome of the Lincoln Inquiry in southern Indiana.

Kentucky gave him birth, Illinois gave him his political career, but Indiana molded the man. The whole world treasures his memory.

The undersigned hereby subscribes to..... cop..... of
THE MISSING CHAPTER IN THE LIFE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN,
by *Bess V. Ehrmann*, at \$3.50 per copy.

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